SHOOTING JOURNAL

OF

GEORGE HENRY MACKAY

1865–1922

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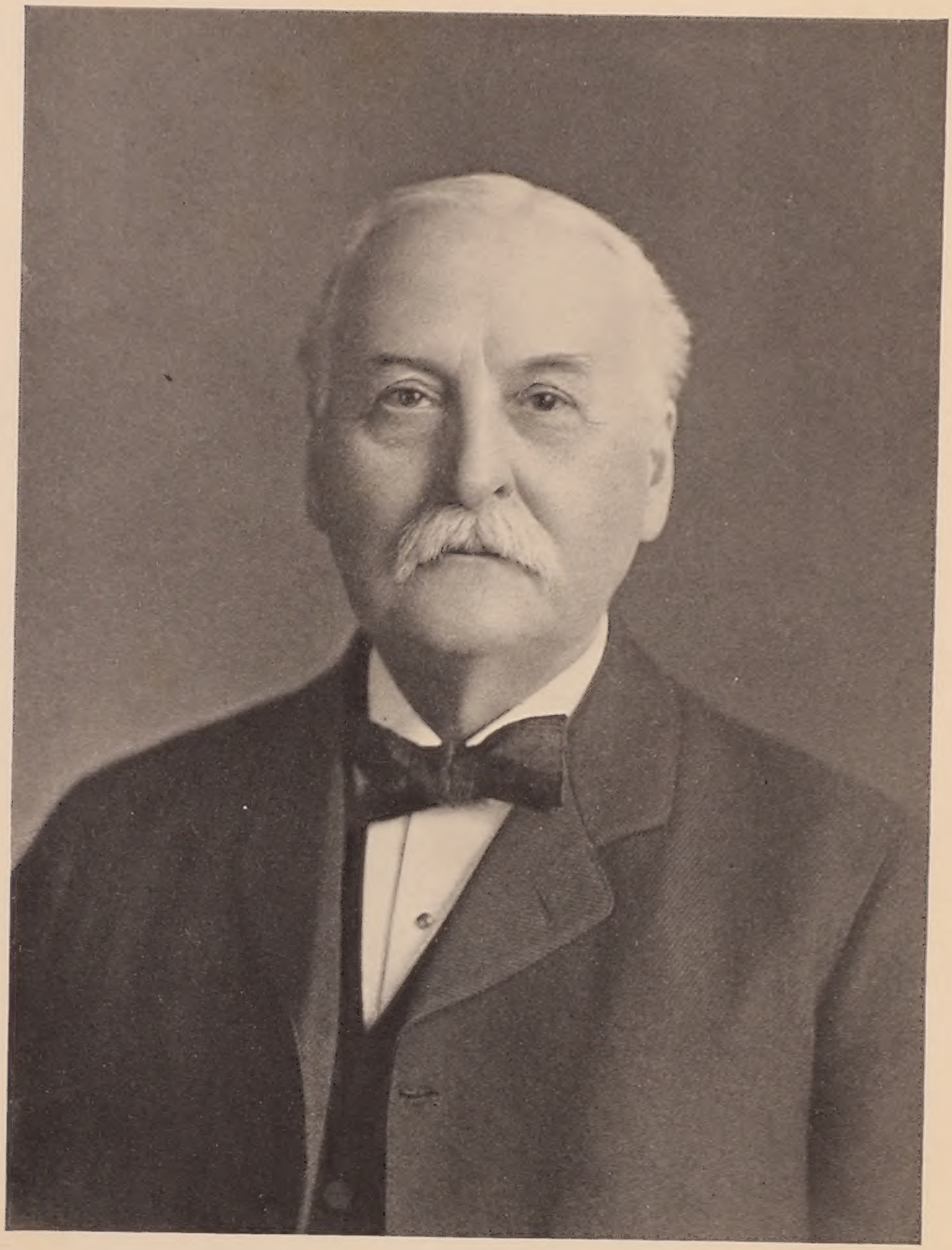

George Henry Mackay

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1865–1922

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By John C. Phillips

INTRODUCTION

by JOHN C. PHILLIPS

IT is rare to find any sportsman, particularly one who started shooting in the middle sixties, who takes the trouble to keep a record of his shooting trips. Perhaps even more uncommon is it to find one who is really interested in the birds he shoots as well as those he sees from day to day. George Mackay's shooting log shows plainly enough that he was both a sportsman and a naturalist. His many contributions to ornithology — a list of them is here included — give us the best picture available of the water bird life off the Massachusetts coast and the flights of Golden Plover and Eskimo Curlew that used to land in great numbers on the outer Cape and the Massachusetts islands.

Mr. Mackay's first love was Nantucket Island, where he followed the August and September migrations for many years, and his second love was certainly West Island, Rhode Island, where he repaired every April to meet the spring east-bound flight of scoters and other sea fowl. He and his friends lived there at a house belonging to one of the striped bass clubs that dotted our coast years ago.

The log book takes us to many other regions. Rockport, Marblehead, and Wellfleet, in Massachusetts; High Gate Springs on Lake Champlain; Bridgehampton, Long Island; Currituck and other places in North Carolina; the Bush River, at Edgewood, Maryland; and even the pampas of Argentina. There were several trips to Minnesota after prairie chickens and ducks. In every case interesting notes have been made and on many

days the chronicler set down long accounts of the weather and tides, and the numbers and actions of the birds that came to his notice. Always, we may be sure, identifications were correct, for if there was a doubt in the writer's mind he referred to his ample library, or to his ornithological friends. But his own knowledge of birds, dating from boyhood, was usually sufficient.

The plover and curlew shooting of fifty years ago is now only a memory. The Eastern Golden Plover has become a scarce species, the "Dough Bird" is gone, and the Upland Plover is so rare in Massachusetts that scarce a dozen or so breeding pairs manage to exist on the Vineyard and Nantucket. For this reason alone, if for no other, some account of the old-time methods of hunting these birds is well worth preserving.

George Henry Mackay was born in Boston in 1843, the son of Robert Caldwell Mackay and Charlotte Langdon Lodge. He was early associated with the thriving East India trade carried on with Calcutta in those days, and he went to India at the age of nineteen as supercargo for his father. He and my father worked for the same firm (R. C. Mackay and Son), both of them being nearly the same age. The elder Mackay sailed around the Horn fourteen times on his voyages to India, and he and his former partner, J. C. Coolidge, owned many ships.

Mr. Mackay tells me that on this voyage of his he saw many Pintado Petrels and Fulmers at Cape Saint Roque on the way to Buenos Ayres. Many were caught and some preserved. Rounding the Cape of Good Hope he had his first sight of Penguins and as the voyage proceeded eastward, approaching the coast of India, he saw a great many Wandering and Yellow-nosed Albatross and Giant Fulmers. Other interesting species came

aboard his ship as he drew up towards the Bay of Bengal, hawks, a Pacific Golden Plover and a White-bellied Swallow. Most of these were preserved and some were sent to the United States National Museum collection.

After the firm of Mackay and Son gave up business, George H. Mackay carried on business alone as a Boston East India merchant. Soon after he began visiting Nantucket Island he married Miss Maria Mitchell Starbuck, daughter of Matthew Starbuck of Nantucket town. He still, at the age of eighty-four years, spends his summers in Nantucket and continues his active interest in the birds, particularly the splendid tern and gull colonies on Muskeget Island. It was he who helped to preserve these birds at the time when the feather business threatened to wipe out all our gulls and terns.

In the pages of *The Auk* for many years after 1890 one can follow the story of Mr. Mackay's fight for the better protection of our birds. Although the state Audubon societies were beginning to appear there was no national center of effort except the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Protection of North American Birds. The chairman of this committee was at first (1890) Mr. George B. Sennett, later Frank Chapman, and in 1896 Mr. William Dutcher, afterwards the founder of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Those were the days of spring shooting, a vast cold storage business in game, and a craze for feathers as ornament. It was by far the most disheartening period in the long fight to eliminate commercialism. Even after spring shooting of shore birds was stopped in Massachusetts vast numbers of plover were shipped from the West to eastern markets. But Mackay and a few friends working almost alone were able to accomplish wonders. Arrayed against him, when he appeared for one of his

bills at the State House, were the hotel men, market men, cold storage interests, and the advocates of open seasons on water fowl and shore birds lasting into May. But as he has often pointed out to me, and this is where his position was a strong one, he appeared as a shooter himself, as one who knew birds from every angle — the sporting, the aesthetic, the scientific — so that his suggestions for reforms, brought to bear year after year upon a wholly unsympathetic State Committee of Conservation, finally bore fruit.

And so it has always been, the pioneers of conservation have been practical men with an outlook broad enough to appreciate all angles of the cause they are fighting for — Audubon, Herbert, George Bird Grinnell, William Dutcher — these men were not of the crank genus, but far-seeing and constructive beyond their time.

In 1926, Mr. Mackay presented me with his original shooting journal and I have had it printed exactly as it came to my hands, with a very few necessary changes in punctuation or the addition or subtraction of a word here and there.

Wenham, Massachusetts

March, 1929

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1865–1922

October, 1865. This book is intended to show the numbers and kinds of game shot by my friends and myself, and the various localities in which they were procured; and I should be most happy to have any of my fellow-sportsmen insert any remarks that may occur to them from time to time. The scores of each day's shooting represent the numbers actually bagged, not shot down.

Geo. H. Mackay

From October 1 to 27, 1861
Marblehead Neck, Mass.

This is a sum total of the game killed for 26 days. My friend Joe Kendall being with me most of the time.

Geo. H. M.

203 Coot (Scoters)
4 Golden Plover
5 Beetle Head

212

From October 2 to 16, 1862
Rockport, Mass.

Alex Town accompanied me on this trip; we lived on Straitsmouth Island at the lighthouse all the time. Our good days were as follows. (We each had a boat and two guns.) Oct. 11th, *40*; Oct. 12th, *27*; Oct. 14, wind east, *78*[1] and Canada Goose; Oct. 15th, *38*.

Geo. H. M.

243 Coot (Scoters)
1 Canada Goose by G. H. M.

244

[1] Of these G. H. M. shot 50 Coot and the Goose himself.

March 17, 1863

Went alone to Martha's Vineyard, had a miserable time, no fowl, no luck. Came home disgusted.

Geo. H. M.

20 Sheldrake
4 Black Ducks
—
24

Buenos Ayres, South America
August 24, 1863

Started for the camp, shot seven ducks which resembled the Pintail Duck of North America; also two ducks very like the American, or Bald Pate Widgeon, and a sort of *Teal* which looked like the Blue-Wing Teal, but on the whole more like Brewer's Duck.[1] Of this latter species I saw quite a number in large flocks of about 500 to 800, and they took great delight in sunning themselves on the banks of the river and on the adjoining pampas. It was impossible to do anything with them, as I had only a miserable gun, no decoys, or in fact anything suitable for shooting, so of course I did nothing.

Geo. H. M.

P. S. I also saw quite a number of birds they called Partridges,[2] and shot a very few. They were about the size of a Quail, and in plumage resembled very closely a hen English Pheasant, or perhaps a Bartramian Sand-Piper. They ran very fast and I could not gain an inch on one of them, walking my best. They are very shy, unless approached on horseback, when one can almost ride over them. They are found out in the open pampas or prairie, where not a bush or tree is to be seen.

Geo. H. M.

[1] Boston, 1885. This Teal was, from the description and plate in Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's *Water Birds*, the Cinnamon Teal, or possibly, if not probably, *Querquedula braz(il)iensis*, the Brazilian Teal. G. H. M.

[2] Probably *Northura maculosa*, the common Partridge of the pampas.

Cape Cod, Mass., August, 1865

Mr. Augustus Denton and myself started for Wellfleet, the chief object being the Plover flight, which did not come, and what few birds we could pick up outside. We remained, that is Denton, three weeks; I gave it up at the end of the second. I did not hear of anybody killing as many birds as we got, although that was few enough, and we both came to the conclusion, after being in our stands for three consecutive days, only seeing two Black Breasted Plover, which did not come within shot, that the Cape was played out.

2 Golden Plover
1 Doebird
30 Black B. Plover
26 Red Breast Plover
9 Jack Curlew
13 Chicken Plover
2 Great Marbled Godwits
—
83

Rockport, Mass., October, 1865

I left Boston early this month for the purpose of shooting a few "Coot." I only remained two days, as the wind came in northwest. I left all my decoys, guns, etc. In about a week I went down again, as the wind came out. It blew very hard from the south, and very rough. I had about two hours' good shooting (October 13) and killed thirty in the boat. I could not do much with them, as they insisted on lighting. I came down here two more days and then gave it up. I do not think I ever saw so poor a fall for "Coot" or so few fowl. On this trip I shot three young male Harlequin Ducks, the spots on which were beginning to show. There were six of them in all, and they were flying four or five yards above the water. When I fired at them every bird dove out of the air under water; in a minute or so three came up flying and went

away, the remaining three came up dead. I never saw any before when shooting.

Geo. H. M.

80 Coots
1 Loon

81

3 Harlequin Ducks

High Gate Springs
Lake Champlain
Latter part of October, 1865

I had been but two days at home after Coot shooting when I was invited to go up to Lake Champlain with Gate Loring, and having accepted his invitation, I remained at his house two weeks. But owing to my not having any decent decoys or anybody to show me the ground in person, I did not do much, and there are always obstacles in going to a new place. If I should ever go up again, however, I think I should do very well for a week.

The feeding ground here is good, the favorite food being a fine grass which grows in about four to six inches of water, and all the fowl seemed to be particularly partial to it, and the birds and ducks I shot were without exception in the *best* condition of any I ever saw. I came home about the 10th of November. We had one fall of snow while I was there, which drove many of the fowl off, it also being pretty cold.

Geo. H. M.

31 Blue Bill Widgeon
9 Black Ducks
5 Buffle-Heads
1 Mallard
1 Sheldrake (Red-breasted)
11 Whistlers, Golden Eye Widgeon
9 Beetle Head Plover (Black bellied), *C. squatarola*
4 Willets, Semipalmated Snipe

11 English Snipe
5 Winter Yellow-Legs
14 Peeps
4 Grey Squirrel

105

A few of these birds were shot by Mr. Barrow who went out once or twice.

Beaufort, South Carolina
Friday, January 26, 1866

The time having arrived for us to start, we put our traps into a Gov't wagon, which the kindness of Col. Frazar had procured for us, and after a ride of twenty-two miles we arrived, after a series of mishaps, at the Combakee River, in fine spirits and great expectations.

Geo. H. M.

Saturday, January 27
The Lownes Plantation, near
Pocotaligo, South Carolina

We set out at an early hour for the purpose of building stands, etc., taking each a gun with us, in case of need, and in looking over the bank of the river into a field on our way we saw a flock of about one hundred Green W. Teal, into which Col. Frazar and myself fired and picked up sixteen[1] dead and one wounded which was lost; and in coming home we shot two Mallards and one Ruddy Duck.

Geo. H. M.

P. S. There was one more Teal (wounded) shot, but we did not chase him, making 17 in all with one bbl., by G. H. M.

16 Teal (Green Wing)
2 Mallards
1 Ruddy

19

[1] Shot by G. H. M. with one barrel.

Monday, January 29, 1866

Having distributed ourselves in our various stands and set the decoys in a large rice field, the fowl of all descriptions commenced to come in very fast, and mostly in large flocks, and as in similar cases would pay no attention to the decoys, flying for the most part very high; and notwithstanding the immense numbers of fowl which came in, we only succeeded in getting a few to the decoys. Whether it was owing to the fact of their having been shot at, or their natural shyness, I must confess I was puzzled to find out, although I surmise it was the former.

The immense quantities of fowl of all kinds here is truly astonishing, and it would pay any man who handles a gun to come a long way to see what I did, this my first day on the Combakee River, and although I expected to kill more than I did today, still under the circumstances we killed what in the North would be considered a good day's shooting. But there was one point I must mention on which we most fully agreed, and that was, "it was of no use trying to kill fowl out of shot."

Geo. H. M.

23 Bald Pates
7 Sprigtails
3 Shovellers
1 Blue Bill
1 Goose, White-fronted by G. H. M.
1 Shag or Cormorant

—

36

Tuesday, January 30, 1866

Thinking it not advisable to shoot two days in succession in the same field, we went to another, where we had previously built our stands, and although we started at a goodly hour, we were somewhat delayed by Mr. Kendall who had the misfortune to tumble overboard, which rendered it neces-

sary for his comfort to change his garments, while *I* patiently waited his reappearance on the dyke in a cold wet fog. We reached the ground a little after daylight and commenced shooting at once, which was very good. But the fowl showed plainly they had not been accustomed to feeding in this pond, but what came in coyed very well and we succeeded in making a very good bag.

Geo. H. M.

10 Bald Pates
18 Blue Bills
5 Ring Necks
17 Shovellers
3 G. W. Teal
2 Hooded Mergansers
1 Mallard
1 Sprig Tail
2 Ruddy

59

January 31, 1866, Wednesday

Being tired from yesterday's shooting we rather overslept ourselves and did not get away from the house as soon as we ought. Joe did not go, but George and myself got under way about ½ past 5 A.M. Everything seemed to go wrong from the commencement, but we finally got to the ground after a good pull. The first thing was to find the "coys" which had been hidden the night before in the grass. George had quite a search for those left by Joe and kept continually calling out to me (who was on my way to my blind in my boat) "I say, Doug, I can't find those 'coys.'" At last, however, they were found and set and we at a short time after daylight found ourselves all right. The Ducks did not fly well, however, and at eleven o'clock we gave it up with the result as given below. Let me take this opportunity to state that in my opinion the shooting at this kind of game is unsurpassed in any place in the U. States in comparison with this. Thousands upon

thousands frequent these rice fields and although it must necessarily have deteriorated since the war, it is still splendid. Nearly all the shots are at single birds which fly surprisingly fast, but which are often cut down by my friends clean and handsomely. The practice is splendid and necessitates good marksmanship, aye of the finest kind, to make a bag. Out of the 59 birds shot yesterday very few indeed were crippled, nearly every one was shot dead, and that, too, often at 50 to 60 yards. The birds are found in splendid plumage, and are magnificent specimens of their different kinds, in which my friends Joe and George are thoroughly posted. I shoot one more day with my friends and then have to return to my command, but shall come back as soon as possible to the glorious sport I leave behind me. This has been so far one of the most agreeable ducking raids I ever engaged in. I wish my friends good luck in my absence, as they deserve it as sportsmen, and in fact will have it, as they understand a great secret, viz., *how to kill.*

D. F.

10 Teal, Green Wing
3 Ring Necks
2 Bald Pates [1]
1 Blue Bill
1 Shoveller

17

Thursday, February 1, 1866

Frazar and Mackay took one float and went up to the original Widgeon field, while I and Lieut. Craig took the other and went to the nearest fields. F. & M. lost their way and pulled up and down the river till nearly daylight before finding the entrance, and it was not till some time after sunrise that I heard the first gun from them. Craig and I were fixed all right just before light, but fowl were mighty scarce.

[1] American Widgeon.

The morning was quite still, with the least possible breeze blowing directly from the field where the boys were, to us, so that although they were at least a mile away in a direct line we could hear them carrying on a conversation, in a very loud tone to be sure, but we could frequently distinguish a sentence or two. The burden of their song was that the fowl were very shy, having been gunned considerably in that field, and flew too high to shoot. We left the ground early, and I pulled my float down to the lower canal so as to go down the river the next time to see what new ground we could find.

On this day occurred the celebrated question, "Hard wad or soft wad?"

J.

5 Sprig Tails
3 Bald Pates
1 Mallard
1 Teal, G. W.
1 Shoveller

11

Saturday, February 3, 1866

Whilst shooting at the Widgeon Pond we had observed that a greater proportion of the Fowl, when leaving our pond, went in a direction up the river and settled down in a locality about a mile from us. We were not aware at the time of there being any pond or field in that vicinity, but suspected as much, and accordingly made up our minds, Joe and myself, to make a voyage of investigation as to the probability of our being able to shoot in that vicinity. On reaching the above-mentioned place we were pleased to find not only a magnificent looking rice field, but thousands of Ducks, Geese, etc., Fowl of all kinds reposing in apparent ease and security. But, alas! they knew not who were looking at them with eager and longing eyes, who thought naught but of striking terror and carrying destruction into these simple but d — mn suspicious

natures on the morrow, and regretting as we did to disturb their quiet repose that day to make the necessary preparations for the slaughter, we drove them all out. It went *hard* but the thing had to be *did*, and then we set to work in earnest building our stands, which, having finished to our mutual satisfaction, we left, but to return the coming morning in a happy and expectant frame of mind.

The hour having arrived, we hired a nigger to tote down to the boat enough ammunition to take a reasonable sized city, we shoved off, and having rowed to our respective stands, we set the decoys and got with due care into our stands *to wait;* the next half hour before daylight was one of the most exciting of my shooting experience. Imagine yourself surrounded by hundreds of fowl, calling, quacking, and whistling within a stone's throw, enlivened by a sudden whirr close by your head, and splashes in the water close beside you, and still not a duck in sight; your eyes expanded to twice their natural size, but all in vain, to make out their dim outline, and notwithstanding we were both anxious to shoot, we both had a sort of dread to break the stillness by firing the first gun. The time at last came, and instantaneously after the report, came such a quacking and fluttering that I am sure it would have confused most anyone; there were so many good shots at fowl flying around your head, one hardly knew which to choose, and at last ended by generally taking the poorest. The fowl coyed in this field much better than in any of the others I have seen, and it was load and fire for some little time during which Joe shot admirably, killing the greater proportion of his fowl dead and in a handsome manner, and it was mainly owing to him that we were able to make so good a bag. We shot down between us about a hundred fowl, but owing to the high wind and grass, into which they skulked and drifted, we were only able to land seventy into our float as the result of the day's shooting. And I would also add, that being obliged to leave our stands and pick up our ducks from time to time

during the day, we lost not only a good deal of time, but many fowls which came to our coys while we were away, and the boat out in open sight tended in a great measure to prevent the fowl from coming down low after they came into the field. As in similar cases of shooting, there is always something that happens just (as) a sportsman was going to fire, or during the day, which if it had not occurred he would have done *so* and *so*, and of course killed many *more* than he *did;* and not wishing to prove an exception I would say, if I had only been in a different place than I happened to be, I think we should have succeeded in bagging a few more fowl.

Geo. H. M.

33 Bald Pates [1]
13 Shovellers
11 Teal, Green Wing
4 Mallards
3 Sprigtails
2 Black Ducks
1 Gadwall
1 Blue Bill Widgeon
1 Dipper
1 White-fronted Goose (G.H.M.)

70

Mackay and Kendall saw today a Trumpeter Swan [2] which flew by us within about seventy yards. It was alone and had evidently been living in this rice field for some days. We particularly, that is G. H. M., noted the *rusty* appearance on the head of this swan. As we expected to get the bird next day, we did not risk the long shot. We never saw it afterward.

Thursday, February 8, 1866

Last Monday it rained. Tuesday we went down to the place where we had left the float and found it *not*, so we returned to the house and just before light I went to the other

[1] American Widgeon.
[2] Probably a Whistling Swan. (J. C. P.)

canal and pulled Frazar's boat up to the bridge, where I was joined by George with a boat and crew, and we went in search of the lost boat. We found it about noon in a creek up by the Widgeon field. One oar was missing and in its place was a paddle, showing that some one had used it and left it. So we lost that day's shoot. Wednesday it rained again, which brings us to today.

Accordingly George and I turned out at the usual hour, namely 3 o'clock, and proceeded to the same place we were last at, and which we christened the "Goose Pond." Everything went well, and we were both in position just before light, George occupying the stand that I had on Saturday, and I taking his. Fowl were not flying as much as before, and we found they were more shy of coming within shot, a great many "going up stairs" on approaching the dyke, seeming to remember the reception they met with on the previous occasion. The same thing happened to George today that I experienced on Saturday.

A flock of Green Wing Teal, say 50 or 60, came dancing through the air like lightning, heading for the coys, and instead of flying outside, or lighting beyond the coys, they swept down close to the water within *ten* yards of the stand, and just as they got abreast of George they went up in the air like so many rockets, all splitting to pieces and looking like so many bees, rendering it possible to slam away with *one* barrel only and trust to luck for getting *one* bird.

George killed about three quarters of the birds. We came away rather early as I had a headache. This day was remarkable for the fact that George killed the first Sprigtail that he ever shot. There has always been a kind of a fatality against his getting one before.

J.

6 Mallards
10 Bald Pates
12 Teal, Green Wing
3 Sprig Tails

2 Buffle Heads
2 Gadwalls
1 Ruddy Duck
1 Black Duck
2 Cormorants
5 Hooded Mergansers

44

Friday, February 9, 1866

George and I went on a prospecting tour farther up the river and found a good field on Mr. Walter Blake's Plantation. After consultation we decided to put our float in a bunch of grass in the middle of the field and pile up the straw all round us, lying together in the boat. Having made our preparations we went home to wait for the morrow. On the way we picked up four fowl.

J.

1 Mallard
1 Whistler (G.H.M.) male in full plumage
2 Ruddy Ducks

4

Saturday, February 10, 1866

We turned out half an hour earlier than usual, owing to the increased distance, about four miles, and were ready in due season. The morning was calm with a thick fog and there were *very few* birds moving. We found that our plan was a success, however, as the fowl did not seem very shy of our blind, having been accustomed to be shot at only from the dykes. The Sprig-Tails in particular, which are the shyest of all the Ducks here, would sometimes circle round us two or three times, often finally coming within shot. The ducks stopped moving almost entirely at noon, and I took a snooze after lunch. The day was quite warm and at half past one we took in the coys.

J. R.

24

11 Sprigtails
8 Bald Pates
9 Teal
9 Shoveller Ducks

37

Monday, February 12, 1866

Joe and Lieut. Craig having started to see if they could find a Wild Turkey, I proposed to Lieut. Loomis that we should take our guns and see if we could not kill a fowl or two ourselves. We went to Joe's stand but did not set any decoys. We remained about two hours with the following result.

Geo. H. M.

1 Mallard
4 Teal, Green Wing

5

Tuesday, February 13, 1866

Geo. and I went to the Goose Pond and occupied the stands on the dykes. We were a little late, not getting the coys set till about sunrise. Nothing remarkable occurred today. Fowl rather scarce, and very shy of coming to the coys. About one o'clock we took in the coys and started for the house in rather a half-starved condition, we having left our haversack of provisions at home.

J.

12 Teal, Green Wing
12 Shovellers
3 Bald Pates, American Widgeon
3 Sprig-Tails
2 Mallards
1 Ring-Neck Duck
1 Blue Bill Widgeon
1 Hooded Merganser

35

Wednesday, February 14, 1866

Craig and myself started off early this morning for Ring-Neck Pond and got the coys set just before daylight, when the Teal commenced to come in, and light, and we had a good many sitting shots, which was fortunate, as Craig did not feel very confident of his abilities on the wing. Soon after daylight I asked him what all that noise he had been making meant, and he replied he had shot about sixteen birds and felt quite encouraged. We had but few chances of doing much afterwards, and as there was but little prospect we came home about half past one o'clock.

Geo. H. M.

22 Teal, Green Wing
3 Bald Pates, American Widgeon
5 Shoveller Ducks
1 Mallard Duck

—

31

Thursday, February 15, 1866

I awoke in the middle of the night and heard the wind rushing through the trees, with a sound that was music in my ears and which caused me to indulge in great expectations for the coming day. At a *quarter past one*, I arose and started the fire. After disposing of our broiled Teal, coffee, etc., and having made our final preparations, we left the house at 3 o'clock A.M. On getting out into the open fields we found that it was indeed blowing a large-sized gale from the northwest, making it of course very cold. We had decided to go to the upper field (Blake's) which George says would please him very much if I would call it five miles away, instead of four. Be that as it may, I know that it took us long en'o to get up there, as we not only had the wind but also the tide against us most of the way, and it took us more than three hours of *hard rowing* to reach the place. We took turns at this work, and just what a poor, miserable, cold-footed,

chattering wretch each one of us was, during the time he was not rowing, can only be imagined, not described. Just before sunrise we grounded the float where we intended to take it over the dyke. As the tide was nearly low we had to drag the boat a few yards over soft, treacherous mud. "Oh!" says George, as one leg went down in the ooze, knee deep. As for me, I was doubled up and shrunk to half my natural size by the wind cutting through me, as though I had no more consistency than a cane-seat chair. We buckled down to it manfully, however, and soon had the boat floating in the rice field. Plenty of fowl all round and lots moving in the air. We selected a patch of grass (having set the coys), hauled the boat into it, and piled up the straw all round us, making a good shelter from the wind. By this time it was 8 o'clock.

I do not propose to describe the shooting—the score below is a sufficient commentary—further than to say it was splendid, and I was particularly pleased, as after inducing George to come all the way from Boston just to come up here duck shooting, I was naturally anxious that he should not be disappointed. Perhaps one remarkable feature was, that not a single duck was shot sitting on the water.

At 4 o'clock P.M. we started to pick up our birds, no small job by the way, and just as the tide commenced to flow (against us), immediately after sunset, we were fairly in the river, and after another hard *pull* of at least "several minutes," we arrived at home at half past eight o'clock. Lieut. Loomis was kind enough to send five men with sacks to bring up our "ducks."

I would call particular attention to the time we used up in going and coming. From the time I started the fire, till we were ready to shoot, six hours and three quarters. From picking up the birds to arrival at the house, four hours and a half; total eleven hours and a quarter, of which *nine* hours and a *half* represents *solid, hard work.*

J.

96 Bald Pates [1]
21 Sprig-Tails
7 Mallards
7 Shoveller Ducks
1 Black Duck

132

This ends our shooting trip. I need not say that it has been the best thing of the kind that I ever experienced. In this respect I am backed up by my friend George. Our only regret is that the Great Douglas was obliged to leave us and was unable to return as expected.

J.

Total of Fowl *Bagged*

191 Bald-Pate Widgeon
100 Green-Winged Teal
68 Shovellers, or Spoon-Bill Ducks
54 Sprig-Tails, or Pin-Tail Ducks
26 Mallards, or English Duck
22 Blue-Bill Widgeon, or Scaup
9 Ring-Neck Ducks
8 Hooded Mergansers, Peaked-Bills
6 Ruddy Ducks, or Dumb Birds
4 Black Ducks
3 Gadwalls, or Creek Ducks
3 Buffle-Head Ducks, or Dippers
3 Cormorants, or Shags
2 White-Fronted Geese,[2] or Laughing
1 Golden-Eye Duck, or Whistler

500

February 18, 1866

Having each fired our last gun for this season on the Combakee River, we packed up all our traps and put them together with our two boats into a Gov't wagon and started

[1] American Widgeon.
[2] The White-fronted Goose is a very unusual record for South Carolina in these days. J. C. P.

for Beaufort, nothing of interest transpiring on the way, with the exception of a *scare* we had on the Combakee Ferry Bridge. One of our mules having got frightened, it was all we could do to prevent Gov't wagon, contents and mules from going off the Bridge (which was the most miserable and dangerous affair of the kind I ever hope to see) into the water thirty feet deep. It did not, however, and our breathing, although interrupted at the time, still kept regularly on. We reached Beaufort that evening at 6½ o'clock, having had a severe shower for about an hour on the way to freshen us up, and we reached Palmetto next day, where for the next succeeding three or four days I amused myself by getting a few shots at marsh birds. This sort of shooting naturally led us to talking on this particular subject, and before the four days were out we had managed to concoct a trip to a bird bank about 25 miles from Joe's house, 5 m. by land, balance by water, which was noted for being a favorite roosting place of marsh birds of all kinds. We did not expect to see many birds, as it was entirely out of season, the best *time* being in May, but as we knew that there were quite a number of old birds which had remained round all winter, we concluded to give them a *try*.

8 Sicklebills
2 Quail
3 Hooded Mergansers
2 Godwits, Great Marbled
—
15

Palmetto Island, South Carolina
February 24, 1866

Having waited until the tide (h.w. 8 o'ck. P.M.) and moon, about full, were right, we put our traps into a mule wagon, in the afternoon, and started for a house 5 miles from Joe's Plantation, where we intended to pass the night so as to take an early start next morning. We put our things into a

Swampscott winter dory and, with the tide in our favor, we rowed 15 miles to our destination, called Egg Bank, a sand shoal comprising a surface of about two acres, and about six feet above the level of high water mark. We got there at 12½ o'clock. We then had our luncheon and a comfortable smoke, and then built our stands, which having finished, we indulged in sweet repose for about an hour and a half, lulled by the rippling water, and our nasal organs gratified with the savory odor of departed horse-shoes and crabs. On awakening we deposited ourselves, gun in hand, to await the coming of our unsuspecting victims. The water being high at 8 o'clock P.M., and it then being about five to half past, the flats were becoming rapidly covered, and the birds commencing to come just before high water. There had collected about a thousand Long-billed Curlew, Great Marbled Godwits, Oyster Catchers, Peeps, etc., which kept off about 200 yards from us, keeping at the edge of the advancing water, and they kept flying up and lighting alternately in front of Joe and myself. At last the tide drove them near en'o to Joe, who let both barrels into them and picked up *thirty-seven*. We, that is Mr. Howard (a gentleman who desired to accompany us), both ran to help Joe pick up his birds, as time was precious, which done, we all got into Joe's stand, which was the best on account of a small spit of sand left above high water in front of his stand, on which the birds kept lighting. We had only ten minutes or so to wait, when back they all came and lit down on the same place where Joe had fired the first shot at them, only a little farther off, the tide having receded somewhat. In fact, they had no choice, as that was the only place that they could light. We each fired into them (about 45 yards) one barrel only, as it was pretty dark, we being just able to make out their outline, and had the satisfaction, if such slaughter can be called sport, of picking up *sixty* birds. The remainder which we secured, which amounted to 43, we picked up in tens and fifteens.

The shooting only lasted two hours, as the tide had fallen sufficiently to allow all the birds to light on the flats and go to feeding. Having carried our guns and birds to our boat and collected a lot of drift wood, we built a large fire and had something to eat and drink, and taking our boots off, dried and toasted our feet, each taking a pensive pipe at intervals. We remained here until 1¼ o'clock A.M. when the tide turned. We then started for home, where we arrived after a long pull of 3¼ hours, tired and sleepy, and Joe even went so far as to say that he was willing to risk his share of the birds rather than go and help bring down a small cart, ourselves for mules. "Oh dear! I wouldn't go after any cart," he kept remarking. He yielded, however, to the unanimous voice, and at 4½ o'clock in the morning we were in bed and asleep, not to rise for 4½ hours. We then had breakfast and left for home. On the way I had the good fortune to kill one Blue-Peter and a pair of little Ground Doves, the smallest variety I believe in the ornithology of the world, but by no means uncommon in the southern states. This was our last shoot in South Carolina for this season, and I never expect to have better sport, better companions, or a better time than I have had this trip, and I hope at some future period to enact it over again with my old friend Joe.

Geo. H. M.

2 Doves, Ground
1 Blue Peter
5 Willets
105 Long-Billed Curlew
28 Great Marbled Godwits, or Red Birds
2 Brown-Backs

143

Rockport, Cape Ann, Mass.
September 25, 1866

Went down to the Point, the wind was S. E. and very light, with fog and rain. I expected to have *seen some* birds but did

not see over *400* from daylight until 9 o'clock A.M. I only had three shots and got two fowl. At 9 o'clock the wind came south and it began to rain quite hard. If this is not good weather for fowl to fly, I do not know what is; that is from daylight until the time I took in the decoys.

Geo. H. M.

2 Coot Scoters

P. S. At 12 o'clock some fishermen told me there were quite a number of fowl flying, but as it was raining hard I did not go out again today.

Rockport, September 26, 1866

I went down again to Straitsmouth Point, the wind was southeast early and then hauled to the south, and it set in foggy and rainy the same as yesterday, there being but little wind. There were scarcely any fowl. I saw about half as many as I did yesterday and I did not do anything. One bunch of about one doz. came by, a long way off. I knocked four out of it and got two. I am surprised at not seeing more fowl.

Geo. H. M.

6 Coot

Rockport, September 29, 1866

I started at the usual hour and went down to the Point. There was no wind, and it was as calm as a mill pond. There were quite a number of old fowl flying outside, but I could not get them to coy, with two or three exceptions, when I turned some half way to Salvage's Rocks. All the shooting I had was before 10 o'clock. At noon I hauled up and went down to Milk Island. In walking on the Island I started an English Snipe and killed him, but could not find him as he fell in some long grass. Off the Island I saw a flock of about

60 Black Ducks, and may try them some good night. In coming home I whistled a Beetle-Head up and killed him. I stopped at the Point as I came home, set the coys again, and got three or four Coot. As tomorrow is Sunday somebody says I shall not go shooting.

M. O. H.

16 Coot (Scoters)
1 Beetle Head
—
17

Rockport, October 1, 1866

Went down to the Point, wind N. E., it blew quite hard before light, but at that time it moderated and there was not much breeze. There were not many fowl moving, and what there were, were old Surf Ducks and American Scoters, and of course did not decoy well. Everything went wrong: the coys would not tail out properly, and in changing them for the fourth or fifth time I lost my anchor, but fortunately had a spare one in the boat. I got all fixed at last and killed the score as given below, and I have come to the conclusion that one cannot expect much shooting of this kind until after the first of October.

Geo. H. M.

16 Coot

Rockport, October 2, 1866

I went as usual to the Point alone, my boatman having overslept himself. I got all fixed at sunrise. The first shot was at a bunch of about fifteen, which flew by, paying no attention to the decoys. I knocked three out of them dead. The next was four White Wings, who came nicely. I killed three of them; the other, having gone off about half a mile, came back, and remained with the others. A pair then came (one Coot and one Blue Bill Widgeon) and I got them

both. I killed two more single ones, and after a while gave it up as there were no fowl flying in sight. The wind west, light.

Geo. H. M.

10 Coot (Scoters)
1 Blue Bill Widgeon

11

Rockport, October 6, 1866

I came down from Boston last even'g, the wind having been N.W. for three days, thinking there might be a chance, but it still kept in N.W., and also Sunday, Oct. 7. I did not expect to do anything of course with the wind this way, but thought I might as well go down, and I found it pretty cold (wind north). I stayed until half past one and then gave it up with following result.

Geo. H. M.

19 Coot (Scoters)

Rockport, October 8, 1866

I went to the Point as usual, there was hardly any air and that little N.W. There were no fowl flying and I only had a few shots. The fishing fleet commenced to come by the Point at about 9 A.M., which put a stop to my shooting, and they seemed to take a delight in coming as near as they possibly could to my wherry without running me down. I stood it for some little time and then gave it up and went on to the Island for a little while and came home. It breezed up in the aft'n from the eastward, but I did not see or hear of any birds flying.

Geo. H. M.

8 Coot (Scoters)

Rockport, October 10, 1866

Yesterday it blew very hard from the E. so I could not get down to the Point. A good many fowl flew in the morning.

Today I went to the Point, it was a good day, wind E., and pretty moderate, but some old sea. The fowl which flew were mostly White Wings, the first flight I have seen this year, but they did not coy, and most of the birds were shot out of the air. I was bothered a great deal by other boats who lee-bowed me and anchored within half a gunshot of my decoys. I changed my position four times, and I am happy to say that those who bothered did not kill over three or four birds.

Geo. H. M.

25 Coot (Scoters)

Rockport, October 11, 1866

Went off the Point with Augustus, of Point Shirley, Taft and Seaver. It was very moderate with the wind S.E. The fowl flew very high, and the fishing fleet troubled us a good deal. I went ashore on the Island with Seaver and stayed a couple of hours. There was hardly anything flew after ten o'clock, and I was the first one to give it up. Taft got 16, Seaver 8, and myself 8.

Geo. H. M.

32 Coot (Scoters)

Rockport, October 12, 1866

Taft, Seaver and myself went out to the Point. The wind was S.E. and not very fresh, in fact one could not have chosen a more promising day for Coot to fly. But there were no Coot. We killed hardly anything. Taft got 10, Seaver 8, myself 8. We remained until 12 o'c'k and then went home. We all came up to Boston this aft'n and I brought up my things, as I do not intend to go down again this year. The weather has been good for fowl to fly, but there were no birds, and as the mackerel have been off the shore I expect the fishing fleet have turned the fowl all outside.

Geo. H. M.

26 Coot (Scoters)

1 Canvas Back
6 Bald Pates
2 Black Heads [1]
19 Red Heads

28

November 15, 1866

I shot off the Point this morning. There was a little breeze when we set the decoys, but it calmed down at sunrise, and what few fowl came darted very badly, coming mostly on my left shoulder. The Ducks did not decoy well at all. At about 10 o'clock it breezed up very fresh from the S., and the box jumped and took in a good deal of water, and I can not imagine a more disagreeable position than to shoot out of a box in choppy weather. I got wet through, most of the water going down the back of my neck. Think of this, my readers, on a cold day in November or December, and answer if shooting is not *healthy* sport. As for me, I do not like it, and I was obliged to knock under and take in the decoys at 12 o'clock, at which time there was two or three inches of water in the box and more coming in, and it is a hard piece of work to take in two or three hundred decoys and wrap each one around with its own line and weight (3 lbs.) and have the wind blowing. I saw a great many Canvas Backs but, having no decoys for them, they would not dart to Red Head coys. The wind has changed more to the eastward. It commenced to rain at one o'clock quite hard, and I think we shall have some dirty weather and I doubt if I can shoot tomorrow.

Geo. H. M.

4 Canvas Backs
8 Black Heads, larger Scaup Ducks
1 Velvet Duck, Scoter

13

[1] One Ring Neck Duck.

November 16, 1866

I set the box and decoys off the Cedars this morning at about 8½ o'clock. I did not get off until late as the box was quite full of water, and as it was blowing quite fresh I did not know at first whether to shoot today. There were a great many fowl bedded off in the cove between the Boston Club and our shore, and although they would fly up from time to time they would pay no attention to the decoys. One reason was I was too much to the leeward of them, and they did not go up the river far enough to come down against the wind to my box. I had only four or five shots, and the other Club did not fire over sixteen or eighteen times. The wind was S.W. and fresh.

Geo. H. M.

2 Black Heads
1 Bald Pate, American Widgeon

3

November 17, 1866

I shot off the Cedars up near the mouth of the creek. Some fowl were bedded inside of Eagle Point in Loterick's Creek, but the most of them were off in the middle of the river, or where they were yesterday, and like yesterday would not coy at all. There was a little air moving from the S.W. and it breezed up in the forenoon. At 9 A.M. I had had only seven shots, and seeing there was not any prospect of doing anything I took in the box and decoys and strung decoys the rest of the day and have finished them. We have a good stool now, take them altogether: 450 Red Heads.

Geo. H. M.

2 Bald Pates, American Widgeon
1 Black Head, larger Scaup Duck
1 Ruddy Duck
2 Horned Grebe

6

November 18, 1866

Mr. Eben Phillips went into the box first this morning, but not feeling very well did not stay but a short time, and as Mr. John Cummings did not care to go in, I went. I saw a great many Canvas Backs but they would not coy, and there were no other kind of fowl in the river. The wind was S.W., which made the decoys set badly, and the ducks, what few came, darted on the right shoulder. I got what Ducks there were killed except two Black Heads.

GEO. H. M.

6 Canvas Backs
2 Black Heads, larger Scaup

8

November 19, 1866

Mr. Phillips went into the box off the Point and myself in the one off the Cedars. I only had three Canvas Backs come to the decoys and I only got one of them, and as there was no prospect of doing anything I took in my set of coys at 10 o'clock. Mr. P. came out of his box at about 10 o'clock and Mr. Cummings went in and remained the rest of the day, coming in to dinner.

GEO. H. M.

2 Canvas Back
1 Horned Grebe
2 Grey Squirrels

5

November 20, 1866

We set only one box today off the Point to the south'rd of it. Mr. Phillips went in first and stayed a couple of hours and got three Canvas Backs, and as he wanted to go over to the other Club I went into the box and stayed there all day. There were hardly any birds flying, and they did not coy.

The wind was N.W. and very fresh and I had only a few shots. I had a fine set of decoys out today, 300 Red Heads and Canvas Backs, but it was no use, the fowl would not coy. I took a little walk in the woods but did not see anything.

Geo. H. M.

9 Canvas Backs
2 Red Heads
2 Black Heads, larger Scaup
1 Dumb Bird (Ruddy Duck)

14

November 22, 1866

We set the box off the Cedars this morning and I went into the box first, but I only had one Whistler come over the coys, which I did not see. I stayed about three hours and then took in the decoys as there was no prospect. The wind was N.E. or more East, but there were no fowl flying and it rained a little but cleared off finely at noon and it is warm weather again. This is the warmest November I have known for a long time and I do not expect to kill any fowl this fall, but next spring there may be a better show for killing Ducks.

Geo. H. M.

2 Red Heads

November 23, 1866

We set the decoys off the Point but the fowl were all out of the river, in fact they seem to have entirely gone. We only had a very few shots and did nothing. We painted about 150 decoys and used up the day in fixing up generally. The wind was N.W.

Geo. H. M.

4 Canvas Back
2 Dumb Birds, Ruddy Ducks
1 Long Tail Duck (Old Squaw)

7

November 24, 1866

We lay where we did yesterday with the wind the same way, no fowl in the river, and it seems to be but little use to set the decoys at all. I did not go into the box at all, having plenty to do on shore. The others stayed in the box all the forenoon with the following result.

Geo. H. M.

4 Canvas Back
1 Black Head, larger Scaup

5 -

Broad Neck, Bush River
Edgewood, Maryland
February 28, 1867

Mr. Eben Phillips, of Swampscott, Mass., Mr. John Cummings and John Phillips arr'd this A.M. at 7½ A.M. Rained all night until noon. Launched boxes and boats and got all ready for shooting. 8 P.M. foggy and calm. Shot three ducks. Went into the box in the aft'n, shot 12 ducks.

15 ducks, Red Heads

Sunday morning, March 3(?). Wind N.E. fresh. Fowl scarce, about 200 off Point. Evening wind S.E., snowing fast.

Monday wind light, overcast, shot 17 ducks. Began to rain 3 P.M., rained and snowed all night.

17 ducks, Red Heads

Tuesday wind N.E., cloudy. About 30 ducks in sight, before night about 600 off Osborn's shore. Good prospect for tomorrow if it clears off tonight.

March 6th, 2 A.M., wind N.E., blowing hard. 6 A.M. snowing fast. Set the box at 12 M., killed 48 ducks. Wind N.E., blowing hard.

48 ducks, Red Heads

March 7th, wind N.E., raining hard, set no box.

March 8, 1867

Pleasant day, wind N.E., set box off the Hollow, killed 28 ducks.

28 ducks, Red Heads

March 9, 1867

Wind N.E., killed 23 ducks.

23 ducks, Red Heads

March 10, 1867

Wind N.E., killed 27 ducks. Mr. C. went home.

27 ducks, Red Heads

March 11, 1867

Off the Point, raining most all day; killed 23 ducks.

23 ducks, Red Heads

March 12, 1867

Set both boxes together, killed 37 off the Point.

37 ducks, Red Heads

March 13, 1867

Set two boxes, one off the point and one off the Cedars, killed 45 ducks.

45 ducks, Red Heads

March 14, 1867

I left Boston yesterday at 2½ P.M. and arrived here today at 7½ A.M. I found Mr. Eben Phillips and Jos. G. Nickerson in box. At about eleven they came out and I went in and staid in the rest of the day, coming in to dinner. I got nine; it was quite pleasant, with wind N.W., and I was almost

frozen while I was in the box, the water freezing when it struck anything.

GEO. H. M.

14 Bald Pates, Widgeon
1 Red Head

15

March 15, 1867

Mr. P. went home today and Mr. N. and myself went in and remained until 3 P.M. We shot well, killing everything that came, with two exceptions. The wind was N.W. early, and kept going half way round the compass, at last remaining S.E. and quite rough. In the first part of the morning it was a dead calm. The most of the fowl in the river are Bald Pates, which won't coy well to a box.

GEO. H. M.

14 Bald Pates, Widgeon
7 Red Heads

21

March 16, 1867

We awoke this morning to find a driving N.E. snowstorm, one of the most severe of the winter. We set the boxes off the Cedars, Nickerson and myself, and remained all day. We had one little flight but did not get many fowl today, and owing to the wet snow it was very nasty and cold. The decoys were all covered with ice. Where the water struck it froze. This day was one of the hardest I have had for some time.

Geo. H. M.

24 Red Heads
10 Bald Pates, Widgeon
2 Black Heads, Scaup (larger)

36

44

March 18, 1867

Sunday we did not shoot. On Monday we set both boxes in the Hollow. There was hardly anything flying in the morning and we only killed ten ducks. After dinner we went in again and the fowl commenced to fly. We had splendid shooting and would have done much better than we did had we only been out a little farther from shore. We, Mr. Nickerson and I, did, however, pretty well and landed sixty-two Red Heads in the boat as the result of the aft'n's shooting, making a total of whole day as follows.

Geo. H. M.

67 Red Heads
5 Bald Pates, Widgeon
—
72

March 19, 1867

We, Joshua G. Nickerson and I, set today a little south of the Point. There was but little air and that N.E. At about 11 A.M. it changed to about S. and we changed the boxes and wind all died away with a blazing sun, with not a ripple on the water. We were both much pleased with the result of the day's bag and I never had such good shooting on a calm day. We were too near shore again and next time we set shall look out and go to the extent of our limit (100 yards from shore).

Geo. H. M.

56 Red Heads
1 Bald Pate, Widgeon
—
57

March 20, 1867

We set both boxes together off the Point. The wind was N.E. and very fresh, so much so we thought at one time of giving it up, as we found it so wet. We stuck it out, however, and the wind moderated at noon. We had hardly any shoot-

ing, which surprised me, as this is always considered our best wind. The Ducks did not seem to trade up the river, all the flight being down, and these gave us no chance at them. We shot down about 45 birds, but lost a good many, owing to the wind and tide.

Geo. H. M.

26 Red Heads
5 Black Heads, larger Scaup
—
31

March 21, 1867

We found a driving N.E. snowstorm, one of the most severe of the season. We went out and towed the boxes round to the Cedars, but it was so cold and wet that we did not feel quite like setting the box, so we gave it up and came home. The storm increased and tonight it is blowing a perfect gale and raining hard. I hope we shall be able to shoot tomorrow, as I want some Ducks to send home.

Geo. H. M.

March 22, 1867

The N.E. snowstorm of yesterday continued unabated all day today. At about 11 A.M. we went down to the shore to see how our boxes and boat stood it. We found the boats half full of water but all right. One of our boxes was sunk and the other gone. We then took our small boat and went in search of it and rowed from the little Cedars to Tapley's Bar, but could not find it, so we came home to dinner. In the aft'n we went out again and found it sunk in the middle of Loterick's Creek. We got all the water out of it and towed it in shore. We then cleaned out the boats and the other box and came home, leaving everything all snug. The canvas on the wings of boxes was all torn; otherwise they were all right.

Geo. H. M.

March 23, 1867

The wind was N. and a little East this morning, and raining. We set to the west of the Cedars. The fowl were all bedded off the little Cedars in Loterick's and kept going in and out all day and we ought to have had fine shooting, but they would not dart and we could do nothing with them, and although we were out all day we killed only a mere nothing. (Sunday morning, March 24, they all came out of Loterick's and bedded off our Hollow about quarter of a mile out, and weather favorable we shall try them off there tomorrow.) The wind today is same as yesterday, so we devoted the day to a general cleaning up.

Geo. H. M.

10 Red Heads
1 Bald Pate, Widgeon

11

March 25, 1867

We set the box in the Hollow today. The wind was N.W., light in the morning and fresh afterwards. The Ducks coyed very well and Mr. Nickerson and I succeeded in getting the greatest number that has been killed here yet in one day this spring. The weather was warm and quite comfortable.

Geo. H. M.

94 Red-Heads
12 Bald-Pates
1 Black-Head, larger Scaup

107

March 26, 1867

I set a little to the north of the Cedars this morning. It was quite cold and wind N.W. and light. There were no Ducks in the river that I could see, and I think they have gone out to the mouth, after the banging they received yes-

terday. We did not have any shooting today, so I took up the stool in time for dinner. Mr. N. had a headache and did not shoot, but our boatman shot in his place and between us we managed to pick up the following.

Geo. H. M.

16 Red-Head Ducks
1 Black Head, larger Scaup Duck

17

March 27, 1867

Today is rainy and misty, wind S.E. We did not set, as there was but little prospect of killing much. We have no ducks off our shore; there is a flock off Tapley's Bar and another a little this side. I went over to the other shore and saw the other club. They did not put out today either. They had about one thousand Bald-Pates in Hing's Creek and will try them last part of the week. The weather has been very severe this spring out here. I do not know when I have seen so much easterly weather with snow and rain.

Geo. H. M.

March 28, 1867

We set off the Hollow this morning with a strong N.W. wind and we found it pretty cold. Up to 10 o'clock we had only killed ten ducks and I came out of the box and remained out until afternoon. We did not take up the decoys until sunset. When the wind went down in the aft'n I went into box again. The fowl flew pretty well and there were some good bunches came, but owing to their darting on our right it made it rather difficult shooting. We have a good flock off the shore and tomorrow will give them another try.

G. H. M.

9 Bald-Pates
9 Black Heads

2 Canvas Backs
19 Red-Heads
—
39

March 29, 1867

Today is the last of our shooting here for this spring. We set the box in the Hollow abreast the water fence which forms our boundary. The wind was N. and west and kept changing from N. to N.W. It blew very hard and it was with the greatest difficulty that we got our ducks, as they went to leeward so fast and it was very hard work getting back; from the time we got into the box we killed 26 about as fast as Mr. N. and myself wanted them to come to the coys. After that they did not fly very fast. The sun bothered us a great deal as it was right in our face and eyes and the ducks darted in the sun's rays. We have had a hard day's shooting and, in fact, all this spring's shooting has been pretty severe, but as we had very fair luck we stood it pretty well. We leave here tomorrow morning and are busy getting things to rights. Mr. Phillips and Cummings will come out here again first of next week and I hope they will have good shooting. Our old house looks very well tonight, as we have over one hundred and fifty nice fowl hanging up to take home tomorrow. The wind is still N.W. and very fresh and it will no doubt be same way tomorrow.

Geo. H. M.

56 Red-Heads
15 Bald-Pates, Widgeon
3 Black Heads, Scaup (larger)
1 Hooded Merganser
—
75

This makes a total, before I came out	263
In 11 days' shooting by Mr. Nickerson and myself	480
	743

Mr. Phillips arr'd out Sunday morning and came home on Friday, so this ends the season's shooting. He did not do much, most of the ducks having gone north. He shot in all about sixty fowl.

Geo. H. M.

60 Red-Heads	
Ducks killed in autumn	105
Ducks killed in spring	804
Total for the season	909

Rockport, Mass.
October 7, 1867

Went down to the Point, wind N.W., fresh and very cold. Could not lay off the Point as the fleet kept coming, so anchored to the S. of it. There were very few fowl flying. I gave it up at about 2 P.M., having killed eighteen.

Geo. H. M.

18 Coots, Scoters

October 8, 1867

The wind still kept in N.W.; little chance for fowl today. Taft and Bowles in one boat, two men in another, and myself. At noon wind died away and went round compass to west again. There were a good many old white-wings flying outside but they would not coy. Taft and Bowles shot ten coot and two Red Heads, the other boat got fifteen and myself nineteen. As it is impossible to get any boatman or boat, shall come home tomorrow. I got one Black-Duck.

Geo. H. M.

2	Red-Heads
1	Black Duck
43	Coot (Scoters)
46	

P. S. None of us who have shot here for years ever heard of a Red Head being seen before.

October 9, 1867

I concluded not to come up until the noon train, so went out a little while in morning with wind still west and fresh. Nothing flying. Three boats off the Point. I stayed until 9 A.M. and then came in. I only had two shots and only got one Coot, and the others had killed only four between them up to the time I left. I shall not go down again this year, and brought up all my things with me.

Geo. H. M.

5 Coot, Scoters

Broad Neck Farm
Edgewood, Maryland
November 11, 1867

I arrived here this noon, got boats and box down to the shore, so as to be prepared to paint next day. The wind was strong N.W. and quite cold. Did not see over fifty Ducks in the river. Late in the aft'n a very heavy squall came up and it rained.

November 12, 1867

It cleared at midnight, wind N.W., very strong and cold. Painted both sink boxes and one boat, when paint gave out. Saw three small flocks of ducks in river, some way off. The other club did not fire but a very few times. I went out in the sneak boat and tried to get a shot at a bunch of about 12 Red Heads, but when I reached the place I thought they were, could not see them, so came home.

November 13, 1867

The wind was N.W. again today and cold. I put cloth on both of the boxes which used up the entire day.

November 14, 1867

Wind strong S.W. and pretty cold from daylight until noon, when it moderated. I have seen more Ducks in the

river than any day yet, but they set off on the middle ground. I have not got ready to shoot as yet.

Geo. H. M.

November 15, 1867

I put the boats, decoys and box into the water and anchored them about where I intended to set tomorrow. At sunset I saw what I supposed to be a flock of Red-Heads and got the sneak boat in the water to go after them with John to paddle me. I fired four guns at them and crippled about fifteen and only succeeded in getting three, and they turned out to be Blue-Peters, which was a pretty good sell. Tomorrow I go into the box and hope to have good shooting as I have seen more Ducks than any day as yet.

Geo. H. M.

3 Blue Peters, American Coot

November 16, 1867

I got everything all ready last night for shooting. On going down this morning I found the box sunk and the tide had come up so high I could not get to my boat and had to go some little way for another to get it with. So after getting water out of box and towing it where I intended to shoot, it was pretty late. I laid N. East of Ferry Bar near the water fence. At about noon, wind changed from S. to N.W., pretty fresh. I did not change the box as I intended to take up decoys early, which I did at 1½ o'clock. The Ducks darted very badly on my right shoulder, but I did pretty well. Next day, Sunday, did not shoot. Wind N. West, light.

Geo. H. M.

15 Red Heads
1 Ruddy Duck
2 Black Heads, larger Scaup
1 Canvas Back
1 Buffle Head

—

20

November 18, 1867

I set in the Hollow at light and killed four Ducks before sunrise. Soon after I got one more, and I then remained in until four P.M. and did not get a shot. The Ducks all kept off on the middle ground and kept flying up but either did not see or would not notice my decoys. This is pretty hard shooting. The wind was N. or N.W. and pretty cool. There are a good many fowl in the river but they keep out and will not come near the shore. I should say there was about 3,000 fowl "wonted" on the middle ground.

Geo. H. M.

2 Red-Heads
1 Canvas-Back
1 Black Head, larger Scaup
1 Whistler, Golden-eye
—
5

November 19, 1867

There was but little air this morning and that N., afterwards a slight breeze N.W. I was set at light to the S. of Ferry Bar and remained in until $10\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock and did not have a duck dart to me. Two Hooded Mergansers came and I killed the Drake. This was total. I went over to the other club in aft'n. I saw a great many ducks on middle ground and a good many of them were Canvas-Backs. I think there are five ducks in river this year to one last, yet they will not dart or take any notice of the decoys, and the other club say the same thing.

Geo. H. M.

1 Hooded Merganser

November 20, 1867

I set off the Point, no wind and quite comfortable. I did not do much. At noon wind came S. strong and I moved box.

It was quite wet and the fowl darted badly on my right shoulder, which made it very difficult shooting. Mr. Cummings arr'd.

Geo. H. M.

3 Canvas-Backs
1 Black-Head, Scaup
1 Goosander, Rose breasted, male
7 Red-Heads
1 Long-tail Duck, Old Squaw

13

November 21, 1867

Mr. Cummings set box where it was yesterday, with a calm, foggy day. The ducks coyed quite well early, but almost entirely stopped at about 9 o'clock. He remained in until dinner, when I went in until he had eaten it. Not a duck came to me. He remained in until quarter past three o'clock and did not kill a duck, although he fired four or five times. He left for Boston tonight.

Geo. H. M.

1 Black-Head
4 Canvas-Back
5 Red Heads
1 Hooded Merganser
1 Horned Grebe

12

November 22, 1867

I set this morning off the Point of *three square* (sedge grass), with a calm foggy morning and what little air was moving was N. East. The Ducks came mostly from up the river and darted on my left shoulder. It remained calm all day, until 2½ o'clock when a rain came up quite suddenly with no wind. However I took up the stool at this time with the following result.

Geo. H. M.

5 Canvas-Backs
13 Red-Heads
2 Black Heads, larger Scaup

20

P. S. There is more Red-Head grass and Canvas-Back grass than for four years.

November 23, 1867

I set off the *three square* (sedge grass) same as yesterday with same kind of weather only it rained. I only had four or five shots and I saw only a very few fowl moving, so after waiting until 11 A.M. I took up the stool. The ducks do not seem to coy at all, going by within two or three hundred yards without paying any attention to my stool of 300 decoys, and they have acted this way so far all this month.

3 Red-Heads
1 Hooded Merganser

4

November 24, 1867

Sunday, same day as yesterday. I did not shoot. Hauled box up into Cedars and boat into barn and strung some coys.

November 25, 1867

This morning was even more foggy than the preceding ones. I set with but little idea of doing anything. Up to 9½ A.M. I had got only nine or ten and from that time until 2½ o'clock I hardly had one shot, afterwards there was a little flying. I had one very pretty bunch come, about 40 Red-Heads. I knocked out six with the first and missed with the second and only got four. I, however, did better than I expected today, and in the morning my guns missed fire several times, which lost me all of eight or ten Ducks.

Geo. H. M.

10 Red-Heads
7 Canvas-Backs
3 Black-Heads, larger Scaup

20

November 26, 1867

This is my last day's shooting this year. I set between water fence and Ferry Bar. I took up at 10 o'clock, as there was but little flying and I had all the things to haul up. I leave tomorrow morning at 8½ A.M. and am getting everything together.

Geo. H. M.

3 Red-Heads
2 Black-Head, larger Scaup

5

Total for autumn, 1867 103

Edgewood, Broad Neck, Bush River
Maryland, March 16, 1868

I left Boston Saturday and arr'd here on the ground this morning at nine o'clock A.M. I launched boat and box and got decoys ready for tomorrow. There is a fine prospect, as there are about five thousand ducks in Cook's Gut Hollow, off the water fence, and I intend to set there tomorrow morning, and have great expectations for a fine day's sport. The weather has been like summer and I find myself uncomfortable even in shirt sleeves. There was no air moving. Some drift ice in the river which may perhaps trouble me. The river opened very late this year. March 11th it broke. Last year we were shooting February 28th. Wind S.W., very light; foggy. It has been foggy last three days.

G. H. M.

March 17, 1868

I turned out early this morning as I had concluded to set off the water fence and had to tow the box some ways from where I left it yesterday. At 12 A.M. it was raining and foggy, the rain stopped at about 3 A.M. I left the house at about 4½ A.M. in a thick fog, and I confess I was a good deal discouraged with the weather. I however had everything all fixed about light and it was impossible to see over sixty yards, the fog being so thick. For the first fifteen minutes I did not get a shot and then they commenced to fly. At about nine A.M. the fog lifted and the wind came south pretty fresh, and as I had the box head to the shore and as the water was coming in a little I was afraid I should have to move, but the Ducks were flying so fast I had no time to do anything but to attend to them. It is almost needless to remark on the shooting. All I would say is that I never saw it excelled in my life and I never have before succeeded myself in killing so many Ducks in one day *alone*. I took up at 4 P.M. and after getting the guns, ducks, etc. up to the house and washing out my three muzzle-loading guns I was completely tired out. The mere process alone of loading and handling the three guns and constant recoil was enough to tire any one and not having shot for some time it gave me quite a headache and I fairly dreaded to fire, but I had made up my mind to make a great day, so I did not give up and I am glad to say I have got more fowl in one day than has been killed yet.

Geo. H. M.

1 Ruddy Duck
5 Bald Pates
2 Black Heads
100 Red Heads

108

P. S. Jan'y 1893. I have never yet exceeded this day's shooting *alone*. G. H. M.

March 18, 1868

I set this morning with a strong N.W. wind, in the Hollow, and from sunrise to 4 P.M. I only had nine Ducks to the decoys. There were very few ducks in the river today; I expect they have gone down to Dove's Cove. I do not expect any shooting again until the wind changes. The weather has been delightful ever since I arrived, and I have been in shirt sleeves most of the time. There seems to be but little prospect for tomorrow, as wind still keeps N. and West.

Geo. H. M.

1 Rose-Breasted Goosander
1 Black-Head
5 Red-Heads

7

March 19, 1868

The wind being N. West this A.M. at 3½ o'clock, I concluded not to set until after sunrise. As it did not breeze up any I set off the Cedars. It was a warm and splendid day. There were scarcely any fowl flying, they all keeping off in the river on the middle ground; and at sunrise I should think there must have been 8,000 in one "rick." There seems no chance of doing anything tomorrow, and I do not know where to set. At about 10 o'clock A.M. the wind came out east, and as it was pretty dull work, and impossible to lie head to it, I took in the coys before dinner.

Geo. H. M.

13 Red Heads
1 Black Head

14

March 20, 1868

I did not set until late this morning, as the wind was East, but at 8 A.M. it changed to N.E. and I set the box off the

Hollow, with little hope of doing much. The ducks were all bedded on the middle ground and in Loterick's Creek and only at times when they got up to stir round did they come up as far as I was, and then they would not decoy. They seem to be pretty well aware what a box is. After blowing up quite fresh it moderated again and remained so until 3½ P.M., when it breezed up again and commenced to snow with wind North and a little West, but the snow melts on touching the ground. I took up the stool at this time with no show for anything tomorrow.

Geo. H. M.

1 Black Head
1 Canvas Back
20 Red Heads
—
22

March 21, 1868

The snowstorm continued all last night and this morning the ground is covered with snow, and up to noon it seems to be blowing and snowing harder than ever. I took a walk down to the shore to have a look at the boats and box, and as they seemed all right I did not go off to them. There are some ducks off the Hollow but some way out, and some off the water fence. I did not set today as it was so stormy and it looks now as if we should have twenty four hours more of it. I hope, however, it will moderate so I can shoot tomorrow or next day as I expect to leave middle of next week. At 4 P.M. it stopped snowing and I went down and cleaned out box and boats. The wind is now N.W. and blowing a gale and on one side of the river the shore is bare for over 100 yards, the wind having blown the water out of the river.

Geo. H. M.

March 22, 1868

The wind was N.W. fresh this morning and I gave up all hope of doing anything. I however took a walk down to

shore and saw a good bunch feeding in the Hollow, so I concluded to drive them out and set box, as I knew they would be likely to come back. At this time it was 8 A.M. At about 9 A.M. I was all set and they commenced to come back, but they darted on my right so it made hard shooting. I however did far better than I expected when I set. I took up at 3 P.M. with following result.

Geo. H. M.

53 Red Heads
1 Bald Pate
—
54

In all, *205* in five days' shooting. "*Big.*"

Bridgehampton, Long Island, N.Y.
August to September 7, 1868

I started on this trip in hopes of catching the Plover flight, and if so go to Montauk Point, but as usual it did not come. I only saw one flock of passing Plover, say 40, and a day or two later a bunch of eight. The weather has been unusually warm, and no storm. My friend Mr. Hull shot with me all the time and we succeeded in picking up a few birds, but no Plover were killed. The Woodcock we found in wet places similar to the July ground and, not finding them in the cornfields where they should have been, we discovered them where they were accidentally, and got a few.

G. H. M.

12 Woodcock
7 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpiper
—
19

Rockport, Mass., October, 1868

My friend George Mackay and myself came down here for a few days to try and get a few "Coot." George fitted me

out with one of his nice guns, taking the other himself and carrying also one smaller bored one.

Arriving at Rockport we finally launched the boat we were to use and, purchasing an old sail, with an oar for a rudder, we steered boldly out of Rockport Harbor for the Light House, with all our guns, baggage and decoys round about us. We arrived without accident, landed our goods on the rocks near the house, and then pulled the boat back to the landing and made all secure for the night, it then being about 6 P.M.

Early in the morning, aye, very early in the morning, George and I got softly out of bed and started for the boat without waking any of the people of the house. At daybreak we had all the decoys set and commenced peppering away, as a few stray ones were flying and lighting in all directions as they often do in the very first grey of the morning. George and I both shot badly at first; in fact I shot very poorly throughout the day, and I have seen George shoot much better. No birds flew to speak of, and we gave it up towards noon.

Next day it blew very fresh and we were not able to go off.

Third day we went off and had pretty good sport, but had to "shut down" early and come ashore and come up to town. The days were passed very pleasantly, and altho' we did not get very much game we had a delightful time, a breath of fresh pine air and a good pull on the oars daily.

D. F.
(Douglass Frazar)

31 Coots, Scoters

West Island, R. I., April 24, 1869

Mr. Nickerson and myself left this A.M. at 8½ o'clock and reached Tiverton about 11 o'clock, and after a ride of two hours we reached our destination, only to find we could not

stay on the island, as the proprietor was absent and had left instructions to accommodate no one; so after a talk we started for the nearest house [1] on Seconnet Point, and were fortunate in getting in. The next morning we went out, but the wind was wrong (N.W.) and we did not shoot our guns. It blew very hard all day, and we remained on Island most all day. On the 26th the wind was right (S.W.) but blowing a gale, so we could not lie off in our boats and we did not shoot at all; in fact, we came very near being upset in getting from the Island to where we had to leave our boat, as a heavy sea was running. As there seemed to be no prospect for the next day we concluded to start for home, where we arrived at $5\frac{3}{4}$ P.M. Early in morning of 25th and 26th we saw quite a number of Coot flying, but not any chance of killing many. Those which flew were White Wings, Skunk Heads and some Butter-Bills. They say this is best place to get Coot in the spring; I had no chance of judging but should think it pretty uncertain, as it requires a light S.W. wind and calm pleasant day, which does not occur often at this time of year. So we gave it up without killing a single fowl, and we neither of us fired our guns but once at fowl. Perhaps some other time we may be more fortunate.

Geo. H. M.

Bridgehampton, Long Island, N. Y.
July, 1869

I started on this trip for the purpose of shooting Woodcock, and remained about ten days. There were three of (us) shooting most every day, and sometimes four. We had very fair luck and succeeded in getting quite a bunch.

61 Woodcock

[1] John Sisson, Little Compton, S. Point, saw a Blue Peter in pond on Seconnet Point.

High Gate Springs, Vt.
Lake Champlain
October 19, 1869

Mr. Wales and myself came up today and took a walk after Woodcock and Snipe but owing to wetness of the season the whole ground was overflowed and the Lake itself was five feet above its usual level. This state of things entirely put a stop to this kind of shooting and we turned our attention to the Ducks. There were not so many around as I saw on my previous trip here several years ago, owing in a great measure to the high water, and there is no prospect of its being lower this autumn I think. Today the 21st we went on a survey with Dan and Mr. Sargent but found everything overflowed as we expected. We set the decoys off a small point and picked up a few stray fowl. There seem to be quite a number of Red Heads in the Lake, and with proper decoys we might kill some. The rest are Whistlers and Blue Bills, which are pretty well trained, and I was rather surprised they did not coy better than they did. However, we have not given them a fair trial as yet, and a few days may tell a different story. Tomorrow we are going to try them off Martingale Point and I think if decent weather shall do tolerably well. We ought to have fifty to seventy-five decoys for this shooting instead of about two dozen. Those we killed today are as follows.

Geo. H. M.

1 Buffle Head
2 Whistlers, Golden Eye
1 Red Head
4 Blue Bills
1 White-Wing Coot (Scoter)
—
9

October 21, 1869

Today we thought we would look for Woodcock and we took a long walk but with little success, owing to the wetness

of the season, and I have little hope of killing any this season. The ground is more adapted for July than autumn shooting and even then I have an idea there are not many birds round here. I got one very nice one and saw one other.

1 Woodcock
1 Ruffed Grouse

October 22, 1869

Mr. Wales, Dan and myself went over to Gander Bay and set the coys; the wind was strong S.W. and very cold. We remained until nearly noon, but did nothing, as the coys had to be set so near the bushes that the fowl did not like to draw to them, and I fear this will be an unavoidable drawback in the future. There are quite a number of Red Heads in the Lake, but we have no decoys for them. The Black Ducks have mostly gone, owing to the high water in the slough, and the other fowl are not very numerous. Mr. W. leaves on Monday night for Boston.

1 Winter Yellow Leg
5 Blue Bills, Scaup
1 Black Duck
1 Coot (Scoter)
1 Whistler, Golden Eye

9

October 23, 1869

Set the decoys off the Island. With rain all day, there was nothing flying, and there was little use going out.

1 Buffle Head
1 Whistler, Golden Eye
1 Blue Bill Widgeon, Scaup

3

October 24, 1869

We went after Ruffed Grouse and walked I should think about fifteen miles. We put up a few, but I don't like the

kind of shooting, as they will not stand for a dog but fly into the trees and it is very hard to see them, and there is but little chance of killing them when they fly up.

G. H. M.

1 Ruffed Grouse
1 Green Heron
5 Long-tailed Ducks

7

Currituck Sound
Poplar Branch, North Carolina
November 26, 1869

Mr. Wales and myself left Boston Monday evening and arrived here Thursday at 7½ o'clock P.M. Today has been taken up until dinner time in getting things ready to shoot, stringing decoys, etc. In the afternoon we went after Snipe and succeeded in killing four. They were quite tame and were easy to shoot. We built a stand in the middle of the Sound and hope to kill some ducks out of it. The fowl are very scarce, everybody says, the best time so far this year being in October. Last year November was the best. However, we hope to do something. Tomorrow we shall go ducking and see how things look generally, but I do not expect much until the weather changes, it being very moderate; the fowl keep quiet, and those moving fly high and are shy I imagine. They say fowl are being shot too hard here; too many sportsmen.

Geo. H. M.

4 Snipe
1 Meadow Lark

5

November 27, 1869

We started this morning for our blind with hardly any wind. We had all fixed about 8 A.M. There were few fowl

flying and those went very high, giving no shooting. The wind breezed up about 9 A.M. but without avail, and I confess I was surprised at not seeing or killing more than we did. The fowl are shy and do not coy well and if they work as they have today we might as well go home at once. What surprises me most is there are no fowl bedded round in sight; I think they are in the north part of the Sound and as they are shot hard here they naturally remain up there. We will see how they work next week and if prospect is no better shall probably start for home.

Geo. H. M.

7 Blue Bills, Scaup
2 Buffle Heads

—

9

November 29, 1869

We set in the same stand as on Saturday and were all ready half an hour after sunrise with little air moving. About 8 A.M. it breezed up S. and some ducks flew, but nothing coyed except Blue Bills and only those which flew low. All the Red Heads and other ducks flew high and we could do nothing with them. The bulk of the fowl and geese are bedded about four miles to the south, where there are a great many, and if it comes up the proper weather we shall probably do well. We shot very fairly today and killed most of the fowl dead. I don't know where we shall set tomorrow, but probably not in same place as today.

Geo. H. M.

2 Buffle Head
3 Hooded Mergansers
29 Blue Bill Widgeon

—

34

November 30, 1869

We went to the same stand as yesterday and had everything set and ready half an hour before light. There were

quite a number of fowl and geese flying but they would pay no attention to the decoys and were shy and flew high. There seems little chance of our doing anything. I gave it up and came home at 11½ A.M. Tom remained two hours longer but with no success. All the ducks I have seen are very shy and will not coy, and if they continue to act so I shall think of going north, as there would be little inducement to remain for the shooting. About noon the wind blew very hard; the boys had a hard time taking up and getting home, and I had all I wanted to do to get back, having broken one of my rowlocks. It is blowing harder than ever this evening and I doubt if we shoot tomorrow.

Geo. H. M.

13 Blue Bill Widgeon
2 Sprigtails
2 Canvas Back
1 Quail

18

December 1, 1869

We stayed at home today as there seemed to be little use to go after fowl. After breakfast we went after Quail but of course did not expect to do much without a dog. We started two coveys and shot five birds but were able to find only four of them. If we had a good dog we could have a few days of fine sport at them.

Geo. H. M.

4 Quail

December 2, 1869

We went after Geese today on Bay-tree Island, and had our nine live coys all set at sunrise. The wind was N.E. and fresh. There were quite a number flying high but it was no use, they would not come down; we only had two come up to two o'clock, when we came home. There are no ducks bedded in our part of the Sound. They are all about five miles south

of us and they make a large flock when they get up. Mr. Wales and William after reaching the landing went off a short distance ducking and have not yet got back.

1 Canada Goose
2 Sprig Tails

—

3

December 3, 1869

We set off Sheep Island this morning, but there were no fowl flying. I have given up all hopes and am going to pack up. William, our boatman, left us and crawled up to a pond hole and shot nine mallards and two spoonbills, and this was about all that was done. The wind was north and cold. Mr. W. and myself only had three or four shots.

Geo. H. M.

9 Mallards
2 Sprigtails
1 Spoonbill
1 Blue Bill Widgeon
1 Green Winged Teal

—

14

December 4, 1869

I did not go ducking after yesterday's experience. Mr. W. and William went, however, after breakfast. They saw no fowl and only killed one Dipper and Blue-Peter. They think of going south 4 miles on Monday to see how things look there, but I shall go after Quail and Snipe near the house, as I have no faith in the result.

Geo. H. M.

1 Buffle Head
1 Blue Peter, American Coot
1 Green Winged Teal

—

3

December 5, 1869

It is Sunday and we are packing up and getting ready to leave. We think of going into the interior of State after Quail, as we hear some tall stories. If we go shall start for Norfolk on Tuesday and leave next day for Kittrell Springs at G. W. Blackhall's house.

December 6, 1869

We found the boat did not run to Norfolk today and so had to defer our start until next day. Mr. Wales and Mr. Walker concluded to try the ducks once again. I did not go, as I did not think it would pay. They remained all day but did not do much. They saw more fowl, however, nearer our part of the Sound than any day yet, but too far out to decoy, and in fact the larger ducks are pretty shy. In the steamer next day there were five or six gentlemen of the Currituck Club and some others came up with us. In the north part of the Sound we saw more ducks, principally Canvas Backs and Red Heads, and could they have been got at would have made splendid shooting. The shooting this year was all in October, last year in November, but it has been very warm during our stay here, and the water has been too low to do much of anything, and as far as goose-shooting went it was useless to try after them.

G. H. M.

4 Mallards
4 Teal, G. wing
1 Black Head
1 Sprigtail
1 Canvas Back

11

December 6, 1869

We left this morning at 5½ A.M. and reached Norfolk at six o'clock. We remained at Atlantic House all night and left

at six A.M. for Kittrell's Spring via the Sea Board and Roanoke R. R. and arrived here at 2½ P.M. for the purpose of shooting Quail and perhaps a wild Turkey.

G. H. M.

Kittrell's Springs
North Carolina
December 9, 1869

Mr. Bullock, Mr. Raney, two gentlemen who were kind enough to go with us, and Mr. Wales and myself started for Quail. We walked over a good deal of ground and saw as many as fifteen coveys. We shot all day, but Mr. W. and myself did not do as well as we ought, as it is different shooting for us, but in a few days hope to hold up our end. I never saw so many birds. This is the best place for them that I ever heard of. We shot in Franklin County.

G. H. M.

24 Quail
1 Woodcock
—
25

December 10, 1869

We shot nearer home today and did not walk so far. Mr. B., Mr. R., Mr. W. and myself, two dogs. I shot better today and killed eight birds running, which surprised me as much as any one. We had very fair luck and got a nice bunch.

27 Quail

December 11, 1869

We shot near home and had same party as yesterday and Mr. Davis from Boston and his dog. We saw birds enough and there is no trouble about them round this vicinity. Tomorrow is Sunday and Monday we shall try the turkey.

33 Quail

December 13, 1869

We started for turkeys but failed to find our man, so did not do much.

13 Quail

December 14, 1869

We went after wild turkeys today and did a heap of walking but it was of no use, and after trying to the satisfaction of all parties we gave it up. When we reached home we found one which had been killed by another man, which Mr. Wales bought.

Geo. H. M.

December 15, 1869

Mr. W. turned out at $3\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock and started turkey shooting. I did not go, so I went after quail with Mr. Fetter from Henderson. It came on to rain at about one o'clock and so only got eight birds. Mr. W. got not a turkey.

G. H. M.

8 Quail

December 16, 1869

We had a big hunt today embracing Mr. Fetter and Dr. Cheatum from Henderson, Mr. Raney, Mr. Davis, Mr. Wales and myself and Capt. Capod. We were gone all day, but birds were pretty scarce for this country, and they all complained of finding no birds. We had a good time, however, and an oyster supper after we got back. Dr. Cheatum and Capt. Capod were the most successful, killing 29 birds, and the Capt. only claimed two or three of them. This would be some shooting for the North.

G. H. M.

74 Quail
4 Rabbits

December 17, 1869

We did not start until late this morning and did not get to shooting until about noon; in fact, we had about three hours' shooting today, but it was one of the pleasantest day's shooting I have had for some time, Mr. Bullock, Mr. W. and myself, and we all enjoyed it very much.

Geo. H. M.

23 Quail

December 19, 1869

This is our last day's shooting. Mr. Wales, Mr. B., Mr. D. and myself composed the party. We shot near the railroad bridge on Tar River. We found no birds to speak of until after 2 P.M., when we had fine sport. I shot very poorly and missed all kinds of easy shots. We leave tomorrow at 9½ A.M. for home and reach there Thursday morning at 6½ o'clock. We hope to go out next autumn after Quail and if we do shall try and be there in early November. We went too late for the height of the shooting and the birds had commenced to be shy.

Geo. H. M.

34 Quail
1 Wood Duck
1 Dove
—
36

Seconnet Point, West Island, R. I.
April 26, 1870

Mr. Phillips and myself left in the 12 o'clock train for Fall River. We reached W. I. just before sunset. We prepared everything for next day and went to bed. Next day the wind was moderately S. W., and a fine prospect. The coot commenced to fly very well and they say it is the best day this spring. They were pretty shy, however. Some few Brant also flew. There were fourteen boats out. Mr. P. was high

boat, myself next, and both together we got more than all the rest put together. It was a warm, beautiful day and I enjoyed being out very much.

Geo. H. M.

43 Scoters

April 28, 1870

The wind was west today and quite fresh. We set off the Comet Rock with four other boats. It was very rough and much heavy old sea. The fowl did not fly at all and we only killed four apiece. We then came on shore and afterwards went out on the back side of the Island, but did nothing, and we gave it up after a while and came on shore. In all we killed just twelve, which beat the whole crowd again today. In the evening a severe thunder shower and wind came up and lasted most all night, with some lightning.

12 Coot (Scoters)

April 29, 1870

We went out this morning with wind west, but before we got to our berths it was N.W., fresh, and considerable old sea on. We did not anchor as there were no fowl flying, so after waiting on our oars for half an hour or so, we came ashore and packed up and at noon we started for home, and I reached house at 6 P.M. o'clock. The wind this P.M. is N.E. and there is no prospect at present for tomorrow. May go down in a couple of weeks again for a couple of days. We did not shoot a gun today.

G. H. M.

Bridgehampton, Long Island, N.Y.
July 4, 1870

Today we shot the Water Hole on the Road, Long Pond, Water Mill, and Cuffy's Swamp. There were five of us half of the time.

27 Woodcock

July 5, 1870

Shot at North Side and Sheriff Rose, only three of us today.

17 Woodcock

July 6, 1870

Shot Water Hole again and Poxybang; two of us.

6 Woodcock

July 9, 1870

Sag Swamp; hard luck; no birds, too wet.

1 Woodcock

July 11, 1870

Shot at Millis Brook, four of us.

18 Woodcock

July 12, 1870

Shot at Sag Pond for marsh birds.

39 Brown backs, Dowitch
1 Woodcock

July 14, 1870

Cow Neck and Millis Brook, four of us. We had considerable rain at this time, and as the birds were all scattered I concluded to come home.

7 Woodcock

Marshfield, Brant Rock, Mass.
August 26, 1870

Dan Loring and myself went down for a few days to get a little fresh air. We sat in front of our decoys for about five days, but birds were very scarce. Although we had good weather the flight of Green Heads must have gone by early. I only saw three or four. I saw more gunners here than in

any one place before, and not one of them killed anything. All we shot came in one day.

6 Winter Yellow Legs
1 Summer Yellow Legs
1 Golden Plover
8 Peeps

16

Straitsmouth Light
Cape Ann, Rockport, Mass.
October 1, 1870

I went down Saturday and came up on Monday (3d). Very calm and clear.

3 Coot
1 Sheldrake

October 7, 1870

Went down Friday and came up following Tuesday (11th), on which day it blew very hard and a good many Coot flew high. But it was too rough to stay out and I gave it up after a little while.

7 Coot, Scoters

G. H. M.

Bridgehampton, Long Island, N. Y.
November 14, 1870

Mr. Schoonmaker and myself shot today, and John.

9 Quail

November 15, 1870

Mr. S., John and myself, Mr. Barton.

14 Quail

November 16, 1870

Mr. S., John, Mr. Slocum, Dr. Bethune and myself and Mr. Barton.

14 Quail
2 Woodcock

November 16 (?), 1870

Mr. S., Mr. B., Dr. B., Mr. S. and myself.

16 Quail

November 17, 1870

Mr. S., Mr. B., Mr. S., Dr. B. and John and myself.

15 Quail
1 Ruffed Grouse

November 18, 1870

Mr. S., Mr. B., John and myself.

14 Quail

November 19, 1870

Mr. S. and myself.

2 Quail

November 20, 1870

Mr. S., John and myself.

3 Quail
2 Woodcock

High Gate Springs, Vermont
Lake Champlain, April 6, 1871

Wash, George and myself lay in Big Marsh Slough in the afternoon, in the morning at Willow Point.

1 Sheldrake
1 Buffle Head
7 Black Ducks

April 7, 1871

Lay in Big Marsh Slough. No fowl flying. We killed only one duck.

1 Black Duck

April 8, 1871

Mr. Chappel came down and said that 80 or 90 Golden Eyed Widgeon were "wonted" in Barr's Pond and we hitched up and drove up there. We found two Black ducks and thirteen Whistlers. Wash went to one end of the pond and George and myself stood at the other. We got up the B. ducks and shot them. Then Mr. Chappel told us that we had better go to Cutler's pond, as it was full of Ducks and was not more than three quarters of a mile off, so we started and walked the longest four miles I ever saw and over very bad ground. When we got at the pond we found that it was almost impossible to get a duck out of it had it been full, but as there was only one Sheldrake in it we went away thoroughly disgusted.

2 Black Ducks

Dan

April 9, 1871

Wash, George and myself lay in Big Marsh Slough. We saw about fifteen geese, but got no shot at them. Wash took the canoe and went up to the head of Cranberry Creek and Wood's Marsh, and reported he saw a good many Black ducks and Whistlers. We had poor luck as the result shows: no Black ducks. I think we came up too late, as it was a very early spring.

Monday, April 10, 1871

George and I concluded we had better go to Wood's Marsh, and got up at 4 A.M. It was very blowy and I had a tough time getting up with the canoe. George and Ally took the

boat. We found a few Black duck and Whistlers. We remained about an hour and then George started for Big Marsh Slough in the canoe. I remained with Ally until 10 o'clock and then went to Big Marsh Slough and found George had shot two Black ducks. Afterwards he shot a Pintail duck. At 3 P.M. we took up and started for home.

2 Black Ducks
1 Pintail

April 11, 1871

Wash and George went in Big M. Slough. It rained very hard. They came home at two P.M.

Dan

1 Whistler
1 Black Duck

April 12, 1871

George went in B.M.S. alone, came home at 3 P.M. without getting a bird. Next day arrived at Boston in morning.

Good Ground, Long Island, N. Y.

May 21, 1871

Joe Kendall and myself left N. Y. today May 21, 1871, at 3.45 from Hunter's Point. We changed cars at Manor and arrived at Good Ground, Long Island, N. Y., at nine o'clock P.M. I saw Lane. We are to start tomorrow for the old inlet, but L. is not sanguine we shall do much, as he thinks it early.

May 22, 1871

Joe was under the weather, so Lane and myself started to look over the ground. We saw no birds and I have given up all hopes of catching any flight this spring.

George

2 Chicken Turnstone
1 Ring Neck

May 23, 1871

Joe, myself and Lane, on Sandy Point. We went in for a *pie* today and shot everything.

George

16 White birds, Sanderling Sandpipers
1 Black Breast Plover
1 Red Breast Sandpiper
1 Red Back Sandpiper
7 Chicken birds, Turnstone
5 Peeps
5 Ring Necks

36

May 24, 1871

Joe and myself on Sandy Point. Nothing came but one bunch of Brown Backs, Red-breasted Snipe. Feeling it was of little use to remain longer here, we took up at noon and came to New York and arrived there at 6½ P.M. and I came on to Boston next night. This is a nice place for shooting and I hope to try it again this coming July and October.

George

10 Brown Backs
3 White birds, Sanderling Sandpipers

Lake Champlain, High Gate, Vermont
June 25, 1871

1 Wood duck
3 English Snipe
4 Virginia Rail
2 Sora Rail

Bridgehampton, Long Island, N. Y.
July 15, 1871

Schoonmaker, John, Spenser and myself shot Water Hole on turnpike, Coffee's, Killers Pond. At every place we were

too late, the ground having been already just shot over, although we got up at 4½ A.M. We shot well but started few birds. Law off today.

G. H. M.

9 Woodcock

July 17, 1871

Dr. Bethune and J. Walker came down last even'g. In the morning they went after Woodcock with Jim Ludlow; Schoonmaker and myself went after marsh birds at Sag Pond. There was scarcely anything moving and we only killed a few. We were all back at dinner and the result was one Woodcock and one Wood Duck for their party, and five Yellow Legs and one Dowitch for ours. In the aft'n we all went Woodcocking. Schoonmaker remained at home and John Hull went in his place and we killed sixteen birds.

17 Woodcock
1 Wood Duck

18

July 18, 1871

We went to Millis Brooks, Dr. B., J. W. S. and myself. We were not allowed to shoot but a short time. If we had not been disturbed I think we could have secured twenty or twenty-five birds. As it was we shot twelve Woodcock and one Wood duck.

12 Woodcock
1 Wood Duck

July 19, 1871

Misty early. Rain from 8 A.M. until five P.M. Wind early S.W., at five P.M., N.E. There ought to be a flight of Bay Snipe tomorrow.

July 20, 1871

2 Brown Backs, Red-breasted Snipe
2 Woodcock

July 21, 1871

Sag Pond, S. and myself.

1 Brown Back

July 22, 1871

1 Woodcock

July 23, 1871

There has been no flight of Bay Snipe as yet. Wind N.W. all the time. I go home tomorrow A.M.

G. H. M.

I

There were four gallant hunters
And on a summer's day
They all made up their hunting minds
That they would go away.

2

That they would go away
Whilst blackberries were ripe
To shoot the long billed Woodcock
And ocean nurtured Snipe.

3

Scarce had these noble gentlemen
Gone but a little mile
When midst the forest's gloomy depths
They saw a Woodcock smile.

4

Then stood they up right bravely
Close filed as they could stand,
There was no failing of the eye,
No trembling of the hand.

5

But like the warriors of old
They stood with dauntless mien
Four men against one *tiny Bird!*
Could grander sight be seen?

6

But, say, what awful mystery,
What thing of dread is this,
That they should fire with one accord
And only fire to miss!

7

Let me for one brief minute
Draw the dark curtain down;
If they had seen the Woodcock smile,
The Woodcock saw them frown.

8

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,
16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27,
28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38,
39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49,
50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

9

The minute's past and now behold
The dismal curtain gone.
Four happy hunters marching home
As a glorious victory won.

10

For, lo, the Captain (Dr. Bethune) walks before
With proud erected head

Bearing the spoils of that great day,
One Woodcock.— *It is dead.*

P. S. Who ate the Woodcock?
S. said the hunters all.
He tasted very good
Although he was small.

Miss D. M. Moore

July 20, 1871

St. James, Minnesota
August 23, 1871

After returning from my trip across the prairies, I found Mr. Thompson, Warner and Hamilton and young Thompson as per agreement to shoot prairie chickens. They had been shooting a day and a half before I arrived, and had had fine sport. We all started out in wagons this A.M., I shooting with Thompson and his son. We rode about twelve miles during the day, and shot as long as we could see. We did not go back to St. James tonight, but put up at Madelia. On reaching hotel we found the others had shot 34, and we brought in 78, which is considered good shooting.

Madelia, Aug't 24. We started early this morning. Hamilton went home. Mr. Warner and myself and Thompson and son shot. The weather was beautiful and sport fine, a pleasant change from yesterday, which was awful on account of the heat. We killed 62 and Thompson and son 77 or 78. We shot nine birds dead that fell in the grass; as Warner's dogs did not retrieve we lost them. This ends my two days' shooting here, and I enjoyed myself very much. The shooting is very easy, which is the only fault I have to find with it. The best place to find birds early in morning is in the wheat stubble. After ten o'clock in hollows between the ridges on which the wheat stubble lies and near water, in the long

grass. Late in the afternoon look for them again in the stubble, same as morning. They should be drawn as soon as killed, which the man in the wagon will attend to, or they will spoil, and then stuffed with fresh green grass, which will keep them in order; but they will not keep over a couple of days, if weather is warm.

G. H. M.

252 Prairie Chickens

Rockport, Cape Ann, Mass.
October, 1871

Dan Loring and myself went down to the Light House after a few Coot. There was little chance and we did not do much, so after staying three or four days we came home, as wind kept wrong for our shooting. It is not much use coming here nowadays, as the shooting is about spoilt.

G. H. M.

17 Coot

A List of American Birds shot by George H. Mackay

Turkey Vulture or Buzzard
Fish Hawk or Osprey
Peregrine Falcon or Great-footed Hawk
Pigeon Hawk
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Short-eared Owl
Night Hawk
Chimney Swallow
Barn Swallow
White-bellied Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Purple Martin
Tyrant Flycatcher or King Bird
Pewee Flycatcher
American Redstart

84

Blackburnian Wood Warbler
Black-throated Green Wood Warbler
Yellow Poll Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Maryland Ground Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Black-capped Titmouse
American Golden-crested Kinglet
Blue Bird
Black-capped Thrush
Ferruginous Thrush
American Robin
Hermit Thrush
Shore Lark
Snow Bunting
Black-throated Bunting
Bay-winged Bunting
Field Bunting
Chipping Bunting
Snow Bird
Seaside Finch
Swamp Sparrow
American Goldfinch
Fox-colored Finch
Song Finch
White-throated Sparrow
Towhee Bunting
Purple Finch or Linnet
Cardinal Grosbeak
Common Crossbill
Scarlet Tanager
Rice Bird or Bob-o-link
Cow Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Baltimore Oriole or Golden Robin
Purple Grackle or Crow Blackbird
Rusty Grackle
Meadow Lark
American Crow
Blue Jay
Red-eyed Vireo
Cedar Bird

White-breasted Nuthatch
Ruby-throated Humming Bird
Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Golden-winged Woodpecker
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Passenger Pigeon
Little Ground Dove
Carolina Long-tailed Dove or Pigeon
Quail
Ruffed Grouse
American Coot
Sora Rail
Virginian Rail
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden Plover
American Ring Plover
Piping Plover
Kildeer Plover
Turnstone, Chicken Bird
Red-breasted Sandpiper
Bartram's Sandpiper
Red-backed Sandpiper
Long-legged Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper or Grass Bird
Purple Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper or Big Peep
Wilson's Sandpiper or Peep
Sanderling or White Bird
Yellow-shanks Tattler
Tell-tale Godwit
Semipalmated Snipe or Willet
Solitary Sandpiper, or Black Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper or "Tip up"
Great Marbled Godwit
Hudsonian Godwit
American Snipe or Wilson's Snipe
Red-breasted Snipe
American Woodcock
Long-billed Curlew
Hudsonian Curlew, Jack

Eskimo Curlew, Dough Bird
Great Blue Heron or Crane
Black-crowned Night Heron or Quawk
Green Heron
American Bittern or Poke
Sand Hill Crane
Canada Goose
White-fronted Goose
Mallard Duck
Black or Dusky Duck
Gadwall Duck, Creek Duck
American Widgeon, Bald Pate
Pintail Duck
Summer or Wood Duck
American Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveller Duck
Scaup Duck or Blue-billed Widgeon
Ring-necked or Tufted Duck
Ruddy Duck or Dumb Bird
Velvet Duck or White-winged Coot
Surf Duck or Skunk-head Coot
American Scoter Duck or Butter-billed Coot
Eider Duck
Golden-eyed Duck or Whistler
Buffle Head Duck or Dipper
Harlequin Duck (Cape Ann, Mass.)
Long-tailed Duck or Old Squaw
Hooded Merganser, Hairy Head
Red-breasted Merganser, Sheldrake
Common Cormorant or Shag
Common Tern
Least Tern
Herring or Silvery Gull
Black-headed or Laughing Gull
Bonaparte Gull
Kittiwake Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
The Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus major*
Little Auk or Ice Bird
Black Guillemot
Great Northern Diver or Loon

Red-throated Diver or Caybrace
Horned Grebe
Red-necked Grebe (146 varieties, May 1, 1866)
Canvas-back Duck
Red-head Duck
Scaup or Black Head
Goosander (Maryland, March)
Prairie Chicken or Pinnated Grouse
Brant Goose
Red-headed Woodpecker
Snow Goose (Minnesota, October)
Razor-billed Auk (Vineyard Sound, March 6, 1878)
King Eider Duck (West Island)
European Green-winged Teal (Muskeget, 1890)
Mocking Bird (Nantucket Island)
Wood Duck (Concord, Mass.)
American Eider
Mollissima, European Eider (Muskeget, 1890)
Brunich's Guillemot
Savanna Sparrow

Bridgehampton, Long Island, N.Y.
October 20, 1871

I left Boston after Quail. Arrived at John's all right and found Schoonmaker as agreed. On Monday we went to East Hampton and hunted all day, but found scarcely any birds until late in the afternoon. S. gave it up early. When we returned we had seventeen in all.

17 Quail

The next four days it rained and we did not go out, it being too wet. John shot a Pintail Duck. Saturday we went out near the house and all three of us shot twenty-three.

23 Quail

Monday and Tuesday we all shot and killed twenty.

20 Quail

Wednesday it rained again and I gave it up and left in the early train for home via New York. The weather was very

unfavorable most of the time, or we should have killed more birds. The ground is now, however, pretty well shot over.

Geo. H. M.

N. B. These Long Island Quail are *larger* than any I have ever seen.

Broad Neck, Edgewood, Md.
February 27, 1872

Dan Loring and myself left Boston on the 9 P.M. train, arr'd in N. Y. next morning and left at 8½ A.M. for Baltimore. We had to go through as the train did not stop at Edgewood. During the hour and a half we waited in B. for the next train back, we purchased some necessary articles. We arr'd at the house at 7½ P.M. and had a tough walk in the dark to the old house, which I found as natural as ever, and I felt quite at home in a short time. The great question of interest at present on the river is whether we shall box or not, both sides having its adherents. The future will show the result. I hope for the best, and on it depends whether we have a splendid time or not. There are plenty of Ducks in the river, mostly Red-heads, but everyone is afraid to set the box for fear of being hauled up. I am much pleased to get the old place again and hope to keep it for some years to come, having tried for a better without success. I expect Mr. Nickerson the middle of this week and do not expect to be ready to shoot before he comes, as we have not got our traps, having been disappointed in their delivery, but I think we shall come out all right in the end. Dan will set tomorrow and try and kill enough off the shore for a meal or two, and I may try it a little while in the morning, but I have no great faith in the result of this kind of shooting. I trust soon to be able to score down on these pages something worth recording, if we can but arrange to shoot out of our boxes. Wind N.W., light in morning, fresh middle of day, and mod-

erated somewhat in afternoon. There was a good deal of flying from daylight until 9 o'clock, when they stopped, and I hear most of the Ducks are up above the railroad bridge. If so, the big guns will drive them out before daylight. The river broke the 22d of Feb'y and on the 23d and 24th there were ten thousand ducks in the river, they say. I never saw a better prospect of Ducks, and if we could box should indulge in great expectations.

G. H. M.

February 28, 1872

We did not get up until later, as there was nothing we could do about our things, they not having been arranged, and also the great question at issue (boxing) being still as uncertain as ever. The various stories we hear leave us in a position out of which we can see no light at present, and we find ourselves encouraged at one time only to be disappointed at another. We walked to the shore and Dan shot a Blue Bill that was sitting on the mud. We then set out about 50 coys, and built an ice stand on the shore, but did not get a single duck to come, so took up at dinner time. In the afternoon we went over to Tapley's Bar and saw Hawes and Osborn, after which we returned to the house, and so ends the second day. The wind still keeps N.W. and was fresh all day until late in afternoon and looks as if we should have it same way tomorrow. Some skim ice formed out about 50 yards from shore last night but melted before noon. The Tapley Bar people have shot scarcely anything as yet. There are no ducks in sight; they say they are in Doa(?) Cove and above the bridge.

G. H. M.

February 29, 1872

We did not start very early this morning, as we were uncertain about shooting. We concluded to set off the Point,

and were ready at 9½ A.M. We saw a good many Ducks, more than any day as yet, and there was considerable moving around, and had we been in the box, should have done well. We had a few shots, but they were long ones. The wind was fresh N.E. most of the day. Most of the ducks were bedded off the Red bank near R. R. bridge. The weather was cloudy and cold, some little snow flying. We took up at four o'clock P.M. and intend setting in same place tomorrow early.

G. H. M.

4 Bald Pates, American Widgeon
4 Blue Bills

8

March 1, 1872

We turned out pretty early today, as we expected to set again off the Point, which we did with wind N.W., light and cold early, and remained the greater part of the day and did not get a shot. "We do not hanker after Point shooting much." We are still as much in the dark as ever on the box question. There was little flying today and we did not see many ducks. I think they are up the river still and also in Doves; they say there are a great many in Gunpowder River. There are a good many Bald Pates among the ducks here. The day has been very pleasant but cold; the wind changed to S.W. at noon for a short time, then West, and finally settled South with good breeze, but no ducks moving. There is little inducement to try and shoot off the shore, and I feel as if it was box or nothing.

Geo. H. M.

March 2, 1872

At 5 A.M. I awoke and found it blowing very fresh from the north; at breakfast it commenced to snow, and it continued blowing and snowing hard all day until 4 P.M., when it stopped. We walked around the shore two or three times and saw a

few ducks, some in Loterick's Creek. About five inches of snow I should say fell. We devoted ourselves to greasing boots, etc. The only remark worth recording was a remark of our man here, who said, "he never, like the old woman, refused his tay," and I can vouch for the truthfulness of it on this and previous occasions. The wind has gone down and snow stopped. The water is blown out of the river very far, and we have about 200 yds. of flats off our shore. The wind now, 8 P.M., is more N.W., but it does not look as if it had cleared.

Geo. H. M.

March 3, 1872

Today is Sunday. When we awoke we found the river almost entirely closed with ice that made last night. We saw some ducks in the holes. About noon the ice broke, as sun was out pretty warm, and the ducks commenced to come in and bed on the middle ground in Downey's Hollow and some off our shore. They were mostly Bald Pates and Red-Heads and Sprigtails. We set off the Point in the aft'n, as we had nothing for dinner tomorrow, but did not kill anything, although we had several shots. Seeing a bunch of about 500 fowl I thought I w'd try and tole them with a red handkerchief. I had hardly shown it when they all got up like the d — l and flew off as fast as they could. I decided it was not a success and concluded not to try it again if I did not want to drive them out of the river. Wind N.W. until 2 P.M.; it then came South, light air moving. There are some 3,500 ducks between our shore and Tapley's Bar tonight. Ice all gone and no wind.

G. H. M.

March 4, 1872

We set a while in the morning off the Point on shore, and killed one Bald Pate. We saw a great many fowl, mostly

Bald Pates. About 10 o'clock they commenced to bed in the mouth of Loterick's Creek, between the other shore and ours, and I should think there were 5,000 there at one time. They remained there most of the day. We took up about 11 A.M. After dinner we fixed our box, as we think of using it soon. The wind was N.W. early, South about 2 P.M. About 5 P.M. a squall came up with snow and wind North; and now, 8 P.M., it is blowing a gale N.W. Most of the Bald Pates are going up the river above the bridge. We killed a Blue Bill in the boat on our way over to Taylor's shore, where we found Eisenbrandt boxing. They had about ten ducks. I am going over to Tapley's Bar in the morning to see about our traps. I trust soon to be able to do something. I am heartily tired of this kind of loafing, but there are difficulties to be overcome in shooting as well as in other things. Quien sabe!!

G. H. M.

March 5, 1872

River closed with ice; weather very cold and rough. We did not try to shoot. I drove up to Magnolia and took the 3 P.M. train for N.Y.

March 6, 1872

Wind N.W., very cold in the morning; grew milder in afternoon. Some large holes open. Saw four geese off our Cedars on the ice, some ducks bedded off our Point, and on Downey's Hollow the tidings came down.

March 7, 1872

I arr'd from N.Y. early before breakfast, after which we walked to the shore and saw a good hole in the ice off Point, and concluded to set and lie in the boat without trimming it. It did not work very well, and we only killed four Black-heads. Wind N.W. and cold. River closed still. Mended coys in the

afternoon and came in to dinner. Never saw so little water in the river as today; could walk out 200 yards from shore.

G. H. M.

March 8, 1872

I was sick today and we did nothing. The river is breaking. Plenty of ducks in sight bedding in Loterick's Creek. Mr. T. came down; in evening Thos. J. T. came down. Snow in the evening.

March 9, 1872

We set off the Cedars about 10½ o'clock. Had we set early, should have done well for the shore. After dinner I went over to Tapley's Bar for our boat and decoys and brought them over. Wind N.E., and some light rain, not much however. Dan not well tonight: "*bilded eggs*." Hope to get box into water tomorrow, but doubt if we shoot. Only half rigged here this spring, and everything wrong and unsatisfactory. Sorry, but no help for it.

Geo. H. M.

3 Bald Pates, Widgeon
2 Ring-neck Ducks
4 Black Heads, larger Scaup

9

March 10, 1872

It commenced to rain at 8 P.M. last night and continued until late this P.M., with wind S.W., light. We put box into the water and fixed all right for tomorrow morning. Dan went over to T. shore and came back with news that makes us in doubt about boxing, and I think we shall give the whole thing up and go home disgusted. I have given up all hopes of having any shooting this spring, or in fact for two years, on Bush River, as the law is such it cannot be changed before

that time, if then. Thus far everything has proved a complete failure, and I see no chance for any improvement for our benefit.

G. H. M.

P. S. Should think there were eight thousand ducks bedded in Loterick's Creek. Evening wind S.W., clear and warm.

March 11, 1872

I turned out at 3 o'clock, as we intended to set the box off the Cedars. There was scarcely any wind, and that West, and ice was making. By nine we were set and in. Everything was frozen in with skim ice. This made it bad. There were a great many ducks flying but they would not dart, as the coys were stationary, and the Bald Pates were very provoking. We warmed a few of them however. At ten we took up, as we did not dare to shoot any longer, owing to the law, and felt as if some one might make trouble. Just before we took up, wind came light N.E., but soon died away. The ducks all bedded off our Hollow until aft'n, when they went up the river for a while, and then part of them bedded off Tapley's Bar. We saw one bunch of 500 Canvas Back there. At 8 P.M. it commenced to snow and it looks as if it might continue all night. We do not know what we shall do tomorrow, but think of shooting from our Point on shore.

G. H. M.

5 Bald Pates
2 Red Heads
1 Black Head
1 Ring-bill Duck
1 Ruddy Duck

—

10

March 12, 1872

The wind being N.W., and the ducks above the bridge, there was no use trying to shoot, and we have given up all

idea of doing anything here, and have concluded to go home next Friday. The law is so stringent and clear that it is useless to attempt an evasion of it; and as the Legislature on these points does not come together again for two years, I consider the thing effectually killed for us.

March 13, 1872

Wind N.W. Beautiful and warm day. We walked round and did nothing. Shall get our things together tomorrow and leave for home next day morning.

G. H. M.

High Lake Springs, Vt.
July 3, 1872

Remained here two weeks, hunted for Woodcock, could not find any.

G. H. M.

5 Woodcock

Nantucket, Mass.
August 25, 1872

I left Boston for the above place, taking my gun, Thursday aft'n. The wind came S. E. and blew very hard and it rained until next day (30th) at one o'clock. I went out at once and set my decoys for Golden Plover on a tract that had been burned over but three days before. The man with me went about a mile away from me and set. I saw about three hundred birds in all, most of which were on their flight, and one flock of about fifty Doe Birds. I killed three and he, two. The wind came in to the West at time I took up stool, and blew fresh all night. Although of little use I was on the ground at light, morning of 31st, hoping to get a few "wonted" birds. They were all pretty near gone, however, and at 8½ A.M. I took up, having seen hardly any birds. I shot two, and

John M. Winslow two. I think they went by before the storm of the 29th. I heard of no one killing any Plover, either on Nantucket, Chappaquidec, or on parts of the Cape. I came home Sept'r 2d. I think Nan't a pretty good place, if any flight; Tuckernuck is better, but is leased, so no chance of shooting there. This has been a very good year for marsh birds from all I have heard. The boys shot a good many at Bridgehampton, L. I., but no Woodcock to speak of, the best day being eight. John Winslow is a very good man to go with, and is pretty well posted, but Fisher (Joe) is undoubtedly the best on the Island as far as shooting is concerned; from all accounts he can put one in the way of killing as many fowl as any one on Nantucket. I have not much faith in the place as far as good shooting is concerned, although in March, if you hit it right, the sea ducks and coots make good shooting, but are difficult to pick up owing to tide.

G. H. M.

New London, Prince Edward Island
September 1, 1872

Mr. Wm. Everett, of Messrs. Williams and Everett of Boston, picture dealers, found a flock of Eskimo Curlew of about fifty birds, in a field, following the plow and gathering up and eating earth worms. He shot fifteen by walking up to them, but as they arrived here Sept. 1, which was the same day that he discovered them, they were quite poor.

St. James, Minnesota
October 10, 1872

Hoddy Thompson and I left St. Paul at 7 o'clock A.M. for St. James; we arr'd at 6½ o'clock P.M. Hoddy went out for an hour and shot down three Sand Hill Cranes, but only got one of them.

G. H. M.

1 Sand Hill Crane

October 11, 1872

We started out early this morning in a two-horse wagon, Hoddy, myself, and a man named Messer to show us the ground. The shooting here consists of visiting all the sloughs and driving out the ducks, getting what you can, and so on to another. We drove today out and back about thirty miles. The weather was extremely cold, ice made an inch thick, and the wind was very cutting.

G. H. M.

1 Canada Goose (by G. H. M.)
20 Mallards
8 Bald Pate, Widgeon
3 Gadwalls
3 Shovellers
4 Green W., Teal
2 Pinnated Grouse
1 English Snipe, Wilson's

—

42

October 12, 1872

The same party went over the same ground today, but we did not get off so early, as it was cold and we were pretty well used up after yesterday's work, being wet most all day.

13 Mallards
4 White-fronted Geese (3 by G. H. M.)
2 Shovellers
1 Snow Goose (by G. H. M.)
3 Green W. Teal
2 Bald Pate Widgeon
2 Pinnated Grouse
1 English Snipe, Wilson's
2 Winter Yellow-legs

—

30

I made a mistake in the above ground. We took the train at 5½ A.M. and rode up 18 miles to Butterfield Station. All

the smaller ponds being frozen over, we did not do much. At 4 o'clock we hailed a team going to St. James and rode back with our game. Weather still cold. Reach St. J. in time for supper. Only Hoddy (Horace Thompson) and myself shot today.

G. H. M.

October 13, 1872

Today the same party who shot the first day went over the same ground as on that occasion. Weather still cold and most of the ducks gone somewhere, as we saw comparatively few to what we did then.

G. H. M.

17 Mallards
12 Bald Pate Widgeon
6 Spoonbills
3 Gadwalls
1 Pinnated Grouse
1 English Snipe, Wilson's

—

40

October 14, 1872

As I had to go to Sioux City on business at one o'clock today, Hoddy and myself only had time to take our guns and walk about a mile from the hotel to a lake called Mink Lake. We arr'd back at hotel at 10 o'clock, as I had to pack up, etc. This we found the best place yet for ducks and, could I have remained, we should have had a fine day's shooting. Weather changed, warm and pleasant.

G. H. M.

8 Mallards
3 Gadwalls
1 White-fronted Goose
1 Spoonbill

—

13

manner that few can excel, although only about seventeen years old. I hope next summer that I may have a chance at the Pinnated Grouse, but until then must say good-bye to shooting in Minnesota. They have some *pass* shooting out here at the smaller duck; that is to lie between two lakes and shoot them as they fly from one to the other. I did not see any of this kind of shooting, but I understand the largest day's bags are made in this manner. Forty is about as high an average as you can get in going round to the pond holes, and this is rather high if anything.

G. H. M.

3 Canada Geese
4 Mallards
5 Sand Hill Cranes
1 Pinnated Grouse

13

Thos. L. Vought is best man at Madelia to furnish a shooting team.

Bridgehampton, L. I., N. Y.
November 5, 1872

I came down for a few days' Quail shooting and the weather was quite favorable, but I had just commenced when I learned of the great November fire in Boston, so gave up all idea of shooting and came at once to the city.

G. H. M.

Thursday 2 P.M.	9 Quail
Friday	14 Quail
Saturday	6 Quail 1 Woodcock 2 Partridges
Monday	17 Quail 1 Meadow Lark
	50

Sibley, Iowa
September, 1873

After finishing our business at Sioux City, I got off the train on my way up to St. Paul in the evening, determined to have a day's shooting at Prairie Chickens. I had heard the shooting was good, although they were very strong and beginning to pack, for the weather was pretty cool. Capt. ———, who had a small setter bitch, kindly went with me and showed me the ground. We got started in fair season, about quarter of seven o'clock, and soon came on some birds. The day was one of the most perfect for this sport, cool enough for walking, and air right for scent to lie well. I did most of the shooting, as the Capt. had been out for two days previously and wanted me to have the sport. I shot well and enjoyed myself immensely; in fact, the whole day shooting, my feelings were such as leave an impression. We shot over seventy Chickens as the result, but lost a few. We reached the hotel at dark, and I packed up ready to leave for Madelia next morning, where Hoddie Thompson was expecting me to try the ducks for a few days.

Madelia, Minnesota
October 1, 1873

On arriving at M. at 1½ o'clock, I found Hoddie at station and everything all ready for a start, so we went at once to the hotel and had some dinner and changed our clothes and then started out to Goose Lake, where we saw so many last year. We found to our chagrin the place deserted, no fowl in sight. We had brought a boat in the wagon, so launched it and laid in it for two or three hours in the rushes, but little came by. We killed a Wood Duck and two Red Heads and a Mallard or two, but I confess I saw at a glance there was no hope for any sport in that quarter for us. We concluded to take an early start next morning and look the ground well over; so, next

day and day after, we rode some 20 miles out, with but little success, and then we gave it up, and I did no more shooting for the year. I was both surprised and disappointed at the great scarcity of fowl. We shot, in all, the following list for the two days and a half.

2 Sand Hill Cranes
1 Canada Goose (G. H. M.)
1 White-fronted Goose
16 Prairie Chickens
10 Blue-winged Teal
2 Red Heads, Ducks
1 Wood Duck
2 Pintail Ducks
40 Mallards

75

Geo. H. M.

West Island, Rhode Island
Little Compton, May, 1873

Geo. Linder of Newton, Mass., and myself came down for a few days for spring Coot coming north. We were, however, too late and did nothing. We enjoyed the trip, however, and finding there was little prospect of doing much, came up.

G. H. M.

11 Coot
3 Hudsonian Godwits; very rare at this season. They were in the *grey* plumage, no red on them. It was *early* in May we were here.

P. S. August 21, 1873. The most severe storm with one exception on record here, Prince Edwards Island, commenced this P.M., wind N.E. with rain, lasted three days. On the 25th inst. immense numbers of Eskimo Curlew and Golden Plover landed and remained for some days on Prince Edwards Island.

Long Cove, J. B. Gordon
Patchogue, L. I., N. Y.
April 12, 1874

I left Boston on the even'g of the 11th and took the 3.30 P.M. train, South Side R. R. of L. I., for Patchogue, where we arrived at 6½ P.M. and found our host and gunner at the depot. We put in our traps, J. R. K. and myself, and rode to the beach. It blew *very* hard N.W. and we had a breezy time coming over, which was accomplished in just 40 minutes, four and a half miles. On arr'l at the "Beach," where the house is, and a perfect one of its kind it is, we had a snow squall and had to walk up a narrow plank walk. Joe lost his hat and I fell over once. We got a little wet and cold but in a short time were as comfortable as could be. We had strong N.W. wind today, Sunday. I shot at a mark and we took a walk and loafed around. We saw a goose on the Beach and shot him.

G. H. M.

1 Goose

April 13, 1874

We set today to the westward. The wind was N. W., then calm, then S.W. We did not have many fowl come to the decoys. The weather was pretty cold, and considerable ice made. We remained all day. J. R. K. fell off the sloop into the water and had to go to the house to change his clothes, so I had the shooting all the afternoon.

1 Goose
5 Brant
13 Broad Bills, larger Scaup

19

April 14, 1874

We set off the house today about three quarters of a mile. There was a good fresh breeze from the S. W., but fowl are

scarce and we had very few come to the battery. We took up at one o'clock, as J. R. K. had to return to N. Y. I had quite a little accident in the aft'n; in punching a cap out of a metallic cartridge it went off and flew up and went into my forehead.

Geo. H. M.

4 Brant
1 Red Head
4 Broad Bills, larger Scaup

P. S. I took the cap out after it had remained in six weeks, that is the doctor cut it out. *Moral*, "Don't use metallic shells."

G. H. M.

August, 1889. I never have since
1905. " " " "
1925. " " " "

April 15, 1874

Mr. O. D. Lovell and I set over to the west on Bryce Bar today. When we reached there we found a good many fowl, but they were very shy and would not decoy at all. The wind was S.W., light, but blew very fresh afterwards. At two o'clock we took up, as it was very dry and beginning to rain. I think we are too late, most of the fowl having left; about first week in April is the time, I should say.

G. H. M.

4 Brant
3 Broad Bills
1 Red Head
1 Butter bld. Coot, American Scoter
1 Sheldrake, Red-breasted

10

P. S. In the even'g we went after a flock of about 25 geese which were sitting on the Snipe Bar. We went within fifteen yds of them with the lantern on the bow of the boat. It was

quite exciting and a fine sight as we approached. We shot six bbls. into them, but never touched a goose with the last three. The first three laid out seven w'h we got and were well pleased with the result.

G. H. M.

7 Canada Geese

April 16, 1874

O. D. L. and I set the box on Colonel's Island middle ground, with wind W.N.W., very fresh. At 8 o'clock A.M. took up and moved to Porpoise Hole, but it was little use. There were no ducks, about all having left, and the shooting is up for the spring. We gave it up at noon and came ashore and fixed up preparatory to starting for home next day. I like the ground here and in the right time one can kill plenty of fowl, as we hope to prove the next time we come here.

G. H. M.

2 Brant
7 Broad Bills, larger Scaup
3 Sheldrake, Red-breasted

12

P. S. Went after Geese with lantern in the evening but found none. Left next day morning for home.

Nantucket, Mass., August 2 to
September 5, 1874

The first nine days wind blew N.E. There were but few birds and I saw none on their flight. I gunned but little, never over half a day at a time. There were no birds landed anywhere to speak of, on their flight; in fact, the same story as it has been for twelve years. I shot in all the following.

16 Golden Plover

Geo. H. M.

Muskeget Island, Nantucket
March 10, 1875

Salsbury, Clark and I left Boston today. Next morning (12) we went up the Harbor with Alex Dunham and built stands on the points. There were no fowl, and no chance. Came back at 3 o'clock P.M. On the 14th we all started with Dunham for Muskeget for Eider Ducks. We had it pretty fresh and cold and got ashore in the harbor. We staid here four days and had the wind right and plenty of it (N.W. a gale). One day we did very well (24), but the fowl fly wide and I doubt if you get them very near. It requires a greater combination of favorable circumstances to get good shooting here than any place I know of. The tide must set all the birds during the night way to the north of Great Point, so they may fly back to their feeding bed early in the morning, and then it must blow a gale to set them on the Beach near enough to shoot. We had a good time, however, and I enjoyed the trip, although it was very cold. We paid $6 per day for the two men, house and boat, and carried our own provisions. On coming home we saw one flock of Coot in which I thought there were over 25 thousand, and outside of them a flock of Eider Ducks of about 12 thousand. If any one thinks of coming here (M.), they should write to Dunham a week or two beforehand and get him to fix the time of coming and get the run of the fowl. It is a hard place to go to and a *first class* boatman is *necessary*. The rips and shoals are dangerous and numerous near the island. We killed in all

25 Eider Ducks
1 Old Squaw

26

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 5, 1875

I went out to the Hummock Pond. It rained hard with wind S. There were no birds moving. However, I shot some Black Ducks and a few other birds, in all

4 Black Ducks
1 Willet
2 Summer Yellow-legs
4 Winter Yellow-legs

11

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 30, 1875

I went out early this A.M. with but little wind S.W., hoping to see a few Green Heads. In all I only saw about five or six and only one came to the decoys, w'h is the first one I have shot this year.

1 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 1, 1875

The law being off today on Black Ducks, I started with Alex Dunham for Coskatee. Had to beat up all the way as the wind was N. E., pretty good breeze. We arr'd about nine o'clock and built stand on north side of pond, but as a bunch came in lower down we left it and built another. But no more came into the pond, except one pair, although we remained until sunset. I was much surprised, as we heard there were some 200 lived there. I shot a few birds while in the stand.

G. H. M.

1 Brown Back
1 Winter Yellow-legs
3 Summer Yellow-legs

5

Nantucket, September 2, 1875

I started after dinner to go up to Broad Creek freshet after Black Ducks, w'h were supposed to come in at sunset, and Alex kept on to further freshet. I had 3 pair come, two pair very wide off. We came home at dark. I saw in all about 25

ducks. I shot one which fell in the grass and was lost, but got as follows

3 Black Ducks

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 4, 1875

Kendall, Clark and I went up to Coskatee and remained all day. The weather was favorable, wind S.S.W., very fresh, but we saw nothing to speak of, and only shot

1 Black Duck
2 Turnstone
1 Winter Yellow-leg
1 Green Head Plover
5 White Birds
7 Peeps

17

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 8, 1875

Kendall (Geo.), Clark and I started off at 4 o'clock today. There was no air moving but a puff now and then S.W. Clark went up and lay at Gideon's valley on some burnt ground, and I took Geo. with me to the ridge between the Little Mioxy Valley and Miacomet Pond. There were a few birds moving up to 8 o'clock and we got some of the stragglers to the coys. Kendall and I shot seven Green Heads and six Sandpipers that resembled small upland Plover. I believe they call them upland Greybacks, Buff Breasted Sandpipers (G. H. M. shot every bird — G. A. K.). Clark got three Green Heads. We picked up at 10 o'clock and came home in time for dinner. Weather very fine. Only a very few Plover on the Island. I think we shall have no flight this year to land birds of any account.

G. H. M.

10 Golden Plover
6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers

16

P. S. We built a stand on the table-land to the west of the Miacomet Pond halfway to Little Mioxy Valley.

Nantucket, September 9, 1875

We got into our stands at daylight. I occupied the one I was in yesterday. Geo. Kendall was in Little Mioxy Valley, and Clark in Gideon's Valley. I had two bunches to my decoys and shot seven. Clark only had four birds come and shot one, and Geo. K. had only one come and killed him. We saw scarcely any birds and I think the chance is over for having any shooting this season. The wind was fresh West. I whistled an Upland Plover up and shot him.

G. H. M.

9 Golden Plover
1 Upland Plover, Bartramian

10

Nantucket, September 10, 1875

I went out early, say 7 A.M., in the stand and remained until 10 o'clock A.M. I only had one small bunch to the coys and got two birds; saw one other bunch of fifteen and one of 8 birds. In the aft'n it blew up rain with wind S.W. and continued all night, blowing heavy, the wind having hauled to N.E.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

September 11, 1875

The wind was north and pretty strong breeze blowing. I saw that if any birds had landed in last night's storm, they would soon start off. I drove around all over the common,

but only saw one bunch of six birds. I went to five or six stands with gunners in them: none had seen more than eight or ten birds, and none had shot any. So, thinking it no use, I did not get out of the wagon, but drove at once back to the house, it being pretty cold, and reached it in time for eight o'clock breakfast.

Nantucket, September 13, 1875

Seth Ackley and myself started after breakfast to ride to Coskatee. We reached there about 11½ o'clock and remained on the marsh until afternoon only seeing one Green head and one Yellowleg, w'h we shot. We then went and set our duck coys in the pond and waited until 8 o'clock, and not a duck came in. We got up next morning at 4 o'clock and went to the marsh again and remained until nearly eleven o'clock and, seeing nothing, came home. On the way we drove by way of Sankaty, and over the commons to South Shore, taking in most of the ponds on the way, but saw absolutely nothing, so I have put my gun up for this season. Wind S.W. first day, N.E. the second.

G. H. M.

2 Green Heads, Golden Plover
1 Winter Yellowleg
1 Solitary Sandpiper
9 Ring-neck Plover

13

Nantucket, September 18, 1875

I went out on an investigating trip and set coys for a while in the ram pasture but did not see much of anything.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
1 Golden Plover

2

Muskeget, Nantucket, Mass.
September 24, 1875

I had not heard of any birds and so did not go out, but today I thought I would go down to Muskeget with Seth Ackley and stay one night. We saw very few birds. I went over to Gravelly Island next day but did nothing, so came home same aft'n. Wind W. and N.W. Came to Boston for good, 27th.

G. H. M.

2 Black Ducks
6 Blackbreast Plover
2 Golden Plover
50 Sanderling Sandpipers

60

Nantucket, November 5, 1875

Seth Ackley and I commenced today and kept it up pretty faithfully until the 12th, when I came home. We went everywhere, including the Dry Shoal, Smith's Point, Harbor, etc., but the fact is there is no shooting there, to pay for going. The distances are great and fowl scarce. Our best day was eighteen Sheldrake shot in Maddequit Harbor off Eel Point. We saw a number of Eider Ducks, which seems early for them. I doubt if I try it again here for fowl, if there is any other place to go to. The result of the whole trip, and it took two of us to do it, was

29 Sheldrake, Red-breasted
3 Black Ducks
3 Long-tailed Ducks
2 Buffle Head
2 Coot, Scoters
1 Pintail Duck
1 Beatle-head Plover, Black-breasted

41

G. H. M.

Patchogue, Long Island, N. Y.
Long Cove, "Beach"
March 10, 1876

O. D. L. and myself left New York on the 1.30 P.M. train and found the boatman all ready for us at the station. We soon got our things in and came over nicely, arr'g at 6 o'clock P.M. We got our things all out. The show of Brant and ducks in sight is good and plenty. There are a good many boxes in the bay, but whether *too* many or not remains to be seen. Sunday, March 12, we loafed around the house and if the weather is favorable (wh. is doubtful from present appearances) we sh'd have good shooting tomorrow. Our host Gordon says we are in just the right time and says we shall have good shooting. O. D. L. saw some 30 Geese on the shore, and tomorrow night, if weather is favorable, we shall try them with the fire light, if they are still there.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 13, 1876

We arose at $3\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, weather thick and promising rain, with wind east and light, from which it went way round to N.W., and this P.M. is blowing very fresh. We set box on Colonel's Island middle ground, but what with having to change three times, and fixing the coys over, we did not do much shooting, and the latter part of the time during which G. H. M. was in, it was *very* dusty. If we had had a good day we should have done well. As it is, we had to pick up at eleven o'clock and really passed most of the time in the cabin of the boat. The following is the result of the day.

1 Red Head Duck
5 Brant
1 Whistler
1 Sheldrake, Red-breasted Merganser
6 Broad Bills, larger Scaup
1 Long-tailed Duck

15

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 14, 1876

We set the clock at the usual hour, 3½ o'clock, but found the wind N.W., fresh, so we did not get up. It moderated about 2 o'clock and at 3 P.M. we were set on the old house middle ground, where we remained until sunset. We had plenty of wind, but the box was dry and we got along very comfortably and did much better than I expected. The wind hauled to nearly West. We enjoyed ourselves very much.

G. H. M.

4 Brant
15 Broad Bill, larger Scaup
—
19

Long Cove, March 15, 1876

We went to the old house middle ground, but did not get set until late as we had to beat to windward in face of a stiff N.W. wind. We remained in all day, and as the shots came very slowly and wide apart it seemed as if we were having a very dry time of it. The weather was quite cold, ice making on the coys. Altogether what with the cold wind, etc., we did not have a very "gala" day. We however managed to pick up quite a little bunch.

G. H. M.

2 Brant
1 Sheldrake, Red-breasted
2 Whistlers, Golden Eye
16 Broad Bill, larger Scaup
—
21

Long Cove, March 16, 1876

We started the clock at 3 o'clock, as we wanted to get off in good time and were all set at about light. I got in first and the fowl came about as fast as I wanted them, while I was in, which was just one hour, and during that time I shot nineteen birds dead besides wounded ones not recovered.

O. D. L. then went in for an hour, but the flight stopped when I got out, and he only had one as the result of his time. The wind was N.E. early and hauled in S.E. with rain and considerable wind; it is now raining hard and blowing hard. We took up at about 3 o'clock and came home. As Mr. O. D. L. had a telegram calling him to N. Y., wh. I was very sorry for, I doubt if we are able to set tomorrow, owing to the storm.

G. H. M.

4 Brant
23 Broad Bills
1 Red Head
1 Buffle Head
—
29

We set on Colonel's Island flat.

Long Cove, March 17, 1876

The storm continued until about seven A.M., with wind N.E. at that time, so we concluded to go down and set off the point of flat, outside and off Horsefoot Creek, for Brant w'h had been sitting there. When we got set wind came fresh N.W. and we changed the box; all the morning it blew, rained and snowed and I had rather a disagreeable time of it. The Brant would not coy, going by just out of shot at my head, so I changed iron, etc., and lay face to the wind. Finally it kept breezing with wind west and high tide, and as I remained in until a sea filled the box a quarter full, I thought I would come out. It was well I did, as had I stayed I think she would have sunk. The men had a hard time taking in the stool and box, and at five o'clock I was in the house. The birds made no shooting, and what few I got were very long shots with large shot. The tide has risen so as to cover all the meadows and looks like being higher. Altogether it was very disagreeable in the box, particularly when I faced a heavy snow and hail squall, which seemed to be the order of

the day. At one o'clock it cleared off but is still blowing hard from N.N.W. From the looks this morning, I expected to make a good day at Brant, but the result is far from it, viz.

8 Brant
5 Broad Bill, larger Scaup

13

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 18, 1876

The wind was too strong to set today, being from the North, and this P.M. seems to be increasing. Baldwin went over to Patchogue this A.M. to ship our fowl home, and also to bring back Geo. Kendall who is to come for a week's shooting.

G. H. M.

Sunday, March 19, 1876

The weather grew very cold last even'g, and this morning we found the Bay frozen out nearly a mile from the shore. The wind remained N.W., fresh and cold, and we are likely to have still more ice. I don't like the look or turn things have taken, and fear it will interfere materially with our shooting next week. In the aft'n it moderated as far as the wind went, and we put lead on the box to have her all ready.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 20, 1876

On looking out this morning we saw new ice had made nearly half the width of the Bay, which, however, moved over to the north shore with a South East wind, which was very moderate. The ice that made Saturday night remained just the same, being much thicker. We went down to the shore and broke out the stool boat so we could get to the sloop,

which was hard and fast aground. With the low tide of course we could not get out, so we gave up all hopes of shooting today, and if no higher tide or ice remains, I see little prospect for tomorrow again. I am rather disappointed with the present aspect affairs have taken. G. K. went out on the beach a little while after Gulls, but accomplished nihil. So we go. Hard work sitting round doing nothing and knowing we are to leave for home next Saturday noon.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 21, 1876

The severe S.E. snow and rain storm w'h set in yesterday P.M. continued unabated with great vigor all night, and this morning the wind was the same with fine rain and fog. As it moderated about noon we concluded to set. I got in first at 1 o'clock P.M., with the wind West, w'h soon hauled to S.W. and very fresh, so much so that what with the strong tide, the head wing was run completely under, and it being also wet, Geo. K. was obliged to come out of the box. As there were no signs of any let up we picked up the stool and came home, only having shot one hour and a half. There were a great many Brant, Geese and Broad Bill moving and, could we have laid in our position on the old house middle ground, we sh'd have had fine shooting. Tonight it is blowing fresh S.W., and what the chance for tomorrow will be remains to be seen.

G. H. M.

12 Broad Bill, larger Scaup

Long Cove, March 22, 1876

We awoke with another N. Wester and were quite discouraged. It continued to blow from this quarter quite fresh all day, but at sunset went down, and we hope for a good day's sport tomorrow, as we think after so much bad weather we *must* have some now that is favorable for shooting. We

had hoped to see the great Joseph this P.M., as he had signified his intention of coming down to remain the rest of the week with us, but I am sorry to say he did not make his appearance. The storm of yesterday threw up large quantities of the large sea clams on the shore, and we went down and picked up two wagon loads "for the hens." We ate some ourselves for supper fried in butter, but I did not think very much of them. So ends another blank day.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 23, 1876

We got set on old house middle ground at about seven o'clock with light air from West. We were detained, in having to beat up there. There were great quantities of Geese and Brant moving, and many large migrating flocks came on today, of each kind.[1] About noon wind died away, and soon after came light S.W., but the fowl did not fly much until last hour I was in the box, or I should say did not stool much. We had good shooting and both enjoyed the day's sport very much. We expect to set in same place tomorrow morning.

G. H. M.

17 Brant
22 Broad Bill
—
39

Long Cove, March 24, 1876

We set in good season on the old house middle ground with almost a calm, the only little air there was moving being West. About noon it breezed up S.W. but we did not get many shots, the shoal we set on showing too plainly. So we hauled up and went in shore and set on Watch Hill ground where we lay until half past five. I got a long shot into a bunch of Brant and knocked out four. We shoot until $9\frac{1}{2}$

[1] I never saw more *migrating* Brant, Geese and Ducks in one day come into the Great South Bay, L. I., N. Y. It was a great sight. G. H. M.

o'clock tomorrow morning, if weather is favorable, and then we start for home. Next spring I think I had better not come down before the 25th of the month, or say the 20th at earliest. The weather has been unfavorable, but under the circumstances we did very well. The wind tonight is S.E.

G. H. M.

1 Whistler
9 Brant
9 Broad Bill
—
19

Patchogue, Long Island, N. Y.
March 12, 1877

I left Boston on the 9 o'clock P.M. train yesterday even'g and arrived at P. at 11 o'clock A.M. next day. Instead of going to the house we went at once and set on Fiddleton Flats, and at one o'clock I was in the box. The wind was south with gentle breeze and overcast. I did not get very many shots but knocked down fifteen. Only nine however were obtained. Everything went smoothly and with the exception of being a little cold it was dry and comfortable. There seem to be a great many Broad Bill in the Bay, but not a great many Brant as yet. We think of going eastward tomorrow, if wind and weather are favorable, as we saw a great many fowl down there today.

G. H. M.

9 Broad Bill, larger Scaup

March 13, 1877

It rained today so we did not set. So we had nothing to do but loaf around the house and in the afternoon I shot my gun at a mark. Wind N. East.

March 14, 1877

We started early but on getting out found so many gunners that we were obliged to go way to the eastward and set off

the Bellport Hotel near Cabbage Point. Joe K. and myself took turns and, although we did not have a very good place or many ducks come to the decoys, we picked up quite a little bunch. At half past three it began to sprinkle so we concluded to take up, as we had some distance to come to get to the house. In the evening Gordon and I went after a flock of 300 geese with the fire light, but we could not find them, so came back in a shower. There are a great many Broad Bill in the bay, and with the right day and weather we shall knock them pretty hard. I think the prospect for tomorrow, however, is not good, as it looks like an easterly storm and is raining this evening a little. However, we hope for the best.

Geo. H. M.

27 Broad Bill, larger Scaup Duck

March 15, 1877

We arose at the usual hour, 3 A.M., but found it blowing so hard that we waited around the house until daylight, not thinking it well to start. About 7 A.M. we thought we would go aboard, where we waited an hour, and as it continued blowing very hard from the North and West we gave it up for the day and came ashore. At 2½ o'clock P.M. Joe left for N.Y., so I am alone until Saturday, when I expect Geo. Kendall. It seems to moderate somewhat this aft'n and I hope for a good day tomorrow. Still there is no knowing. The wind has hauled more to the West and I am in hopes it will die away for good at sundown; so here ends another blank day.

G. H. M.

March 16, 1877

When we awoke we found it blowing so hard from the West that it would be impossible to set the box, so we did not get up. At 9 o'clock it moderated and we started and were all set on Colonel's Island ground and I got in at 10¼ o'clock. I

got a little out of patience, as the fowl came rather wild and made long shooting and when I got up out of the box at them they would turn off before the wind and would go some fifteen yards before I could fire. I remained in all day, only coming out for dinner, when Baldwin took my place and shot four brant and two broadbill. In the evening we went after a flock of fifty geese with the light, but the snowstorm was so thick that we could not find them. It snowed most all night. The wind was West, fresh till afternoon, when it came Southwest and then Southeast.

G. H. M.

4 Brant
22 Broadbill, larger Scaup
—
26

March 17, 1877

Wind round to the North, blowing hard and cold. No chance to shoot, so the boat went off to Patchogue before breakfast. It moderates now towards noon and I trust next week will be an improvement on the last. I have only had two days and a half out of the whole of it. Such is the result of a gunner's luck. There are plenty of fowl in the bay but not a very great many Brant. There are considerable many geese. At 6 P.M. Geo. Kendall appeared and I was very glad to see him, and we hope to give the ducks some next week. Towards 6 o'clock P.M. it began to snow and continued a good share of the night with wind N.E.

G. H. M.

Sunday, March 18, 1877

Not a very pleasant morning early, and pretty cold, but moderated about noon with very little air N.E. and quite warm. We took a walk on the beach but saw nothing, and amused ourselves as best we could around the house. It looks now as if we should have a fair day to shoot tomorrow

and no one hopes for such a result more than myself. It looks quite like winter, plenty of snow on the ground and a little ice around the shore.

G. H. M.

1 Crow, shot from the window

Monday, March 19, 1877

We got up at the usual time and went down to the shore, only to find the Bay closed with ice a mile from shore. The weather, though moderate, was very cold. We were very much discouraged and came back to the house to wait, wait, wait, what I have been employed at all last week. I could have *cussed* pretty hard, but had reached that state when my feelings were better expressed by *silence*. So I sit in our comfortable room and look out of the window and speculate on the chances of the ice breaking, while Geo. K. has buried his sorrows in slumber. The weather kept moderating all day with wind S. by West, and about six o'clock P.M. it began to snow and at nine P.M. continues. There is no sign of the ice moving as yet. In the afternoon Baldwin broke a passage off to the boat and got her in a little nearer. Shall not set clock for tomorrow morning.

G. H. M.

Tuesday, March 20, 1877

As anticipated, everything from the shore out for a mile was *ice*, and not the smallest chance of being able to shoot. We were quite resigned to our fate, so waited for a more favorable turn. The day was warm and beautiful with the lightest air possible from the N.West. Some of the other boats from the other shore set, but I did not hear many guns from them and judge they did but little. Late in the afternoon a portion of the ice (the thinnest) farthest from our shore moved off, as the wind had changed to South, but it was so very light it did not do very much good. The ice got quite soft before

the afternoon and if it would breeze up a little I think the ice would all move off and we should be able to shoot after our long rest, but I avoid predicting at this stage of the game.

G. H. M.

March 21, 1877

We left the house at 4½ o'clock A.M. and broke a path out to the large boat, after which we broke a path for her through the ice and after a good deal of hard work got her into clear water. We did not set at once as weather was doubtful and looked like rain and wind. As it did not do either, after a while we put the box and stool out, which no sooner done than the wind which had been S.E. came very fresh S.W. and Kendall waved to come out. We went and took him out and picked up everything as it was blowing hard and the ice had commenced to come for us. We only just got things aboard in time. We then loafed around until one o'clock P.M., when wind moderated and we set again; but after a couple of hours some more ice started and we were obliged to pick up again, and as it was late, we concluded not to set again. We reached the house at half past three. All the ice is now gone and the weather tonight is warm and misty with wind fresh S.W. We hope to get off in good season tomorrow morning and get some shooting.

G. H. M.

3 Broadbill

Thursday, March 22, 1877

Owing to the rain this morning we did not get set until about seven o'clock on the centre of the old house middle ground. Geo. Kendall got in box with Baldwin to tend in the sharpy, while Dunbar and G. H. M. went to Patchogue. They were gone 3½ hours and after I (K.) got tired, I called Baldwin in. We each shot one. Afterwards G. H. M. got in

and shot four and subsequently I (K.) got two more. Wind north all day, fresh; good many fowl and Brant in the Bay but they would not 'coy.

G. A. K.

8 Broadbill, larger Scaup

Friday, March 23, 1877

Rained again hard all night and so we did not get set until about 7 o'clock A.M. off Colonel's Island to the west a little. Pretty good shooting for the first two hours. Geo. was going in first but he tore a terrible gash in the palm of his hand with the box hook and could not shoot, so I took his place, shot four in the morning early; from early noon but little moved, and it moderated down to almost a calm, and then wind came S.S.W. very light. Scarcely any Brant and neither of us have had a shot during our present trip, and all in all the weather and everything else has been unfavorable.

19 Broadbill, larger Scaup

Saturday, March 24, 1877

We leave for home on the one o'clock P.M. train today, and as my hand was not in condition I did not go off. Geo. K., however, went and got set at 6 A.M. and remained in the box off the house until nine o'clock A.M. The day was a warm and beautiful one, little breeze and that S.S.W. He had only two Grebe come to the coys and knocked down one of them but did not get him. So ends this trip, a very unsatisfactory one in almost every respect. We think next spring of coming down later, so as to get better weather. Still I fear it may possibly be *too* moderate then. However, we shall see when the time comes.

G. H. M.

P. S. Not a Goose or a Brant this trip.

West Island, R. I.
April 14, 1877

The great Douglas is responsible for this trip, but as he is a pretty good boy, we won't say much about it. After a little consultation we started for Geo. Kendall's office and told him he *was* to make one of the party, and having fixed the 14th as the day to meet and start, *here we are agin*. As the driver had not received my message, I had to walk up and get the team from Tiverton Station. We were soon all right, however, and in two hours we were on the Point, and having showed our vouchers we changed our duds and in a little while were pulling away for the *Clump* and were all ready about 3 o'clock P.M.. The wind was Southeast, and no fowl flying. We however managed to secure one and feel as if we could do considerable with a good chance.

G. H. M.

1 Coot, Scoter

Alex Carton is the keeper of the Club house this year.

April 15, 1877

As this was first morning, we were up in good season and set off the Clump, with wind E. and E.N.E. and finally S.W. No fowl of any account flew, so we came in for dinner and in the afternoon went out and set off the Comet Rock; we did not do much, but feel as if we could when the opportunity comes. We are enjoying ourselves so far exceedingly, and the great Douglas is beginning to feel like himself again.

G. H. M.

4 Coot, Scoters
3 Old Squaws
1 Eider Duck

8

April 16, 1877

As the wind came S.W. in the afternoon, we thought we should have a fine day's sport, if it held the next day, and so concluded we must have the best berths anyway. So we got up at 2½ o'clock A.M. with wind S.W. to W. and started. We had only just got our anchors over when three boats came along, but we only smiled and said I guess not this time. Much to our chagrin the fowl did not *pour* by as we had arranged, the wind having hauled too much West. We were set off the Comet Rock all day. It was cool in the morning and fresh breeze. When we came ashore we had as result

18 Coot, Scoters
2 Eider Ducks [1]

20

G. H. M.

April 17, 1877

We were up at 2½ o'clock A.M., but concluded not to start for the Clump until daylight, as it was breezing S.E. pretty fresh, and as a result two boats or rather three got ahead of us. The weather looked stormy and rain clouds were in sight, and I concluded if we did anything we should have to be quick about it, which turned out to be the case, as it began to rain and breeze up so that we came ashore on the Island at 8½ A.M. The fowl flew splendidly and I only wish we could have lain longer. After we landed the fowl poured by in a steady stream until about noon, when it held up a little and we all started off again. I got off the Point and found it very rough, and as the other boys concluded to go to leeward of the Comet Rock I was alone, but I soon pulled up as the fowl shied my boat. I went part way to leeward and anchored between the Rock and Island. We did not stay long, as it blew

[1] King Eiders now in the Boston Natural History Society, Boston, Mass.

Long Cove, July 19, 1877

I got off early this morning and was set soon after light, on the eastern Snipe Bar, with the wind fresh S. and S.W., a good promising day for birds. I remained in the stand until about 2½ o'clock P.M., when it began to rain, and I got a good ducking before I reached the house. There were not a great many birds flying, but most all came to or near the coys. I don't think I saw over 200 birds today, and less Jacks than yesterday, and there were very few birds passing outside. I made one of the longest shots that I ever did I think with fine shot (7), killing a Jack dead. I lost 2 Yellowlegs and one Brownback in the grass, shot dead, but I have not scored them, as I could not find them.

G. H. M.

12 Red-breasted Snipe
5 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
9 Summer Yellowlegs
1 Winter Yellowlegs

27

July 20, 1877

I called Baldwin at the usual hour and dressed myself and started for the Snipe Bar. It was a dead calm. Once in a while a puff from the South. It soon began to rain gently, it breezed up a trifle afterward, but there was no wind and it was more or less foggy until nine o'clock when it stopped raining and came out hot with a trifle more air moving. I rather expected to have seen more birds moving, but they were few and far between. I did not pick up until 4 o'clock P.M., as I wanted to remain one day and see if it paid, and came to the conclusion that it did not. It came up thick at 4 o'clock and rained the rest of the afternoon and I saw nothing flying from the house. I had the 5 Jacks for supper last night and they were the poorest eating I ever attempted. I took two pieces and gave it up.

G. H. M.

2 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
6 Red-breasted Snipe
6 Summer Yellowlegs
1 Red-breasted Snipe
1 Night Heron (Quawk)

16

P. S. After 12 o'clock wind was S.W. Nothing flew during the middle of the day.

July 21, 1877

Having overslept, I got set a little late: quarter of six I was all ready. It was one of those calm warm foggy mornings with fine rain, so inducive to rust on guns. I remained in the stand until quarter of ten o'clock, having had only four birds to the decoys, one while I was out, and I only saw three or four more in the distance. After this experience, I concluded it was about time to *git*, so I pulled up and started for the house. The same weather continued all day; the little air there was drew from the S. and W. I shall go home on Monday.

G. H. M.

2 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Red-breasted Snipe

3

July 22, 1877

Today is moderate and calm. As it is Sunday I did not go out but got my things together, as I start early for Boston tomorrow morning. I saw two or three bunches of birds pass by the house.

July 23, 1877

Started for the North Shore but had to row almost half the way, as there was no wind. I arrived all right next morning early.

Nantucket, Mass., July 28, 1877

Brad and myself took a ride West as far as Smith's Point to see if there were any birds. We saw a few Yellowlegs and three Jacks and a very few upland Plover on the way. We picked up the following:

1 Summer Yellowleg
1 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpiper
1 Brown Back, Dowich

3

Nantucket, July 30, 1877

After breakfast Brad and I went West, although we did not have H. G.'s advice in mind, but because I thought we could kill 20 to 25 large birds. It was a calm, foggy, and warm day, and little air S.E. I set the coys at the head of Narrow Creek and Brad went on and set at Broad Creek. I had very good shooting and the most of the sport, as Brad had scarcely any come to him, he said. We picked up about three o'clock and came home. I think most of the birds shot had been living in this vicinity for a little while. We should not do so well if we went there again. There were one or two little showers during the day. Saw a bunch of about a dozen Jacks and shot three of them.

G. H. M.

11 Summer Yellowlegs
4 Brown Backs, Dowich
1 Blackbird
3 Jack Curlew
4 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpiper

24

These birds were all in splendid order and very fat.

Nantucket, August 1, 1877

Brad and myself made up our minds to go up to Wauwinet, so we took the small steamer that runs up there at this

season. We started at 9 o'clock A.M. and reached there in a little over an hour. We then got Small's horse and rode to the marshes and I got the coys set about eleven o'clock. We found quite a number of small Yellowlegs living there, and went at them in earnest, and for the first half hour it was quite lively; after that it slacked off and after two hours and a half we picked up and rode back to the house and had a first rate fish dinner, and then came down in a cat-rigged boat with a party of about forty, who were on a picnic. The wind was N.E. all day and quite fresh about noon. We did very well I think.

G. H. M.

6 Grass birds, Pectoral Sandpipers
1 Ring Neck
23 Summer Yellowlegs
1 Brown Back, Dowich
1 Winter Yellowleg

32

Nantucket, August 2, 1877

We were *told* that there were some birds on Pocomo meadows, so Brad and I hired a sail boat and with Capt. Wyer started at nine o'clock with a strong breeze N.E., dead ahead. Suffice it to say we saw not a bird, so after a while we set sail and beat up to the place we were yesterday, hoping although late to pick up a few birds, but we saw none. Brad took a walk round to Coskatee Pond and saw about 20 Summer Yellowlegs and shot one which was the result total for the day. We had a fine sail down with a stunning fair wind.

G. H. M.

1 Summer Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 23, 1877

Brad and I took a ride up to Quay's, as I had heard of a lot of birds up there, but, as is usual, none were to be *seen*.

So we drove across country by Madequecham Valley to pond of same name, out of which seven Black Ducks flew. Here we shot two Summer Yellowlegs. We then drove over to Nobadeer Pond and saw eight ducks. I crawled on to them but when I rose to fire my hammers were full of grass so I could get no aim. They jumped and I poked it first at one and then at another. The first came dead and the latter went off sick. I was much disheartened over my hard luck, as I should have got four if every thing had gone right. They were quite tame. On the way home we saw and started up a bunch of a dozen Jack Curlew. They lit and Brad went round and tried to drive on to them and I got out and hid. They soon started before he got anywhere near them and came by me a great way off. As it was the last chance of the day I risked the long distance. One soon settled out of the flock as they flew off and I went and picked him up — a noble bird and a very fat one. I hope to pay my compliments to this bunch again, as I am not through with them yet. It was a dead calm and very hot today. The Great Douglass has an idea of coming here tomorrow night, but I fear he will have a *dry time* of it. I did not favor his coming.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
1 Jack Curlew
2 Summer Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 25, 1877

Brad and I went west today up to the creeks. We set coys for a while, but did not see anything to speak of, so we soon picked up and returned. On our way a bunch of Summer Yellowlegs came by the wagon near the sheep pond and we knocked out eight of them but only got six. We drove as far east as the Life Station and here we found a bunch of ten Jacks, wild enough, but I got out and hid and Brad drove them up towards me and I fired a long shot and killed one.

The day was calm and no air, pretty hot, no kind of a day for birds.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
1 Black-breasted Plover
6 Summer Yellowlegs
1 Winter Yellowleg

—

9

Nantucket, August 27, 1877

We had a very severe rain storm on the night of the 25th, but as it was short, did not think much of it. Next day was Sunday and we heard nothing of any birds (in fact had not seen a Plover this summer) until towards evening, when the news came that a good many birds had landed, mostly Dough birds. Of course Brad and I were on hand early and we drove at once in a thick fog to the Little Mioxe Valley, where we found a small bunch resting. Brad shot three from the wagon. I did not fire. While we stood consulting, a bunch of about 30 Dough birds broke out of the fog. I gave them a wide shot and killed one. Brad then went into a stand here and I went up on the plain near by. We killed all we got with the exception of one shot we made together, killing seven Dough birds by an hour after sunrise, and nothing moved during the rest of the day. Although we came home by half past three o'clock I saw in all today about sixty Greenheads and some two hundred and fifty Dough birds. The fog lifted about ten o'clock A.M. and it came out a *hot* calm day. We took a drive around the commons to see the other gunners (and there was a man in about every hole) and found none had over five, and as near as we could see we killed more than the whole of them put together. We were very fortunate in getting as many as we did and I am satisfied with the result.

G. H. M.

16 Esquimau Curlew
2 Pectoral Sandpipers
5 Golden Plovers
4 Peeps

—

27

Nantucket, August 28, 1877

We got off in good season this A.M. with a thick fog around us. It cleared somewhat about seven A.M., but scarcely any air moving, and up to 9 o'clock A.M. I only saw one Green-head. We occupied the stands we were in yesterday. Brad got one Dough bird. We pulled up and took a drive over towards Gideon's Valley and found one man with three birds. As we drove away we saw a bunch of about 40 Greenheads. We made a wide shot and got two. They went to the stand we had just left and, there being then three in it, they knocked down twelve. We drove to the northward and looked over the hills there but saw nothing. I think the birds are on Tuckernuck. Very hot and still today, the little air Southwest.

G. H. M.

1 Esquimau Curlew
2 Golden Plover
1 Crow

Nantucket, August 29, 1877

Brad and I did not go out until after dinner today. We drove up to Gideon's Valley and set the coys. After waiting nearly two hours without seeing a bird, we picked up and drove down to the southern ponds. As we were coming home we drove back the same way and saw one flock of about one hundred Dough birds, and they came almost near enough.

3 Esquimau Curlew
2 Winter Yellowlegs

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 30, 1877

We drove out at 5 o'clock A.M. I went in my stand on the Maicomet Plains, and Brad to Gideon's Valley. He saw two Green-heads but got no shot. I saw two Dough birds, one came to me and I killed him. Wind Northwest. No show, came home at 8½ o'clock A.M.

1 Esquimau Curlew

Nantucket, September 1, 1877

I drove out to Madequecham Pond to see if there were any Black Ducks, and started out 20, so I concluded to lie there in the evening. On the way I shot a Dough bird. Evening: it was very windy from the S. a little West. I dug stand and was all fixed early. Much to my disgust only one duck came in and I killed him. Saw quite a number of Plover flying. Had two friends with me; one was at same pond with me, the other went to the next pond (Touchee) but neither got a shot.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
1 Esquimau Curlew

Nantucket, September 3, 1877

Geo. Mitchell and I started at four o'clock A.M. for Plover, and went to Gideon's Valley and were all set just after daylight, where we remained until 8½ o'clock, not having seen any birds except five Dough birds. Mitchell got the first shot at them and killed one and wounded another, which went off. As they came by me wide off I killed one with No. 4 shot. We took a drive down to the Nobadeer Pond but saw nothing, so came home in time for dinner. Wind north of west. I think about all the birds have gone. The first Pale-bellies of the season were shot today.

G. H. M.

2 Esquimau Curlew

Nantucket, September 5, 1877

I started for Black Ducks and reached Madequecham Pond at half past seven, where I remained until noon; *saw* only two ducks. Wind S.W., light. After dinner George Mitchell and myself took a long ride through Ram Pasture to the Sheep Pond, where we saw signs of ducks. Although *I* thought the signs were *old*, we set the coys here and remained

until we could not see, and not a duck or plover greeted our vision the whole time. On the way out we saw three Winter Yellowlegs and M. shot one. I have concluded not to go ducking unless I *know* of ducks being "wonted" in some pond.

G. H. M.

1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, September 7, 1877

A northeast storm commenced last night, so this morning I was up early and was all set about seven in the Little Mioxe Valley. On reaching there I found a bunch of plover and shot out three but only got two. After waiting awhile I changed my stand up to the Miacomet Plains. Then I thought I had made a mistake, so moved back again. It blew very fresh all day, and is blowing tonight hard. At 2 P.M. today it began to rain and has continued so to time of going to bed and I think it will keep up all night. I saw no birds after 10 o'clock A.M., although I did not come in until $3\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P.M. If it doesn't rain I shall try them again tomorrow.

G. H. M.

14 Golden Plover
3 Grass Birds, Pectoral Sandpipers
1 Peep

18

Nantucket, September 8, 1877

I did not go shooting today, but took a ride in the P.M. and shot one Dough bird.

G. H. M.

1 Esquimau Curlew

September 10, 1877

Geo. Mitchell and I went up to Coskatee with Alex Dunham. We got off a little before five A.M. and reached there in good season. There was not much breeze, and that

N.E. I put out my duck coys. I made two miserable shots at ducks and how I missed them "No feller can find out." We saw scarcely anything and gave it up and came back early, reaching town a little after two P.M.

G. H. M.

2 Black Ducks, by G. H. M.
3 Winter Yellowlegs, by G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 12, 1877

Wind S.W., light. Most all the birds have been gone for some little time and we don't pretend to go shooting much. When out riding this A.M. I saw 3 Dough birds and 9 Green-heads, so after dinner Brad and I went to where I left them. The Green-heads had gone but we found the Dough birds and got a shot at them but did not do as well as we ought. On the way out we saw a bunch of, say, twenty-five Green-heads and hunted for them without avail, so we came home after quite a drive over the Plover ground without seeing any birds. We think of going out for a few hours early tomorrow morning.

G. H. M.

1 Esquimau Curlew
1 Chicken Plover, Turnstone

Nantucket, September 13, 1877

Brad and I started off at 5 o'clock A.M. When we came to the burnt ground I saw a bunch of thirty-five Green-heads on it, so I got out and ran up to a stand about a hundred yards off and Brad tried to drive on to them. But they flew and came by me and I knocked out six Green-heads and one Dough bird. I then set my coys here and Brad went up to Gideon's Valley. Soon the bunch came back up, but were wild and not together. I only got out three. This was the end of it, so we took a ride and only saw a few birds. Brad got two Grass birds. No wind, S. West calm. Home at eleven.

G. H. M.

9 Golden Plover
1 Esquimau Curlew
2 Pectoral Sandpipers

12

Nantucket, September 14, 1877

Brad, Hallett and myself went for ducks. Started at 8 o'clock. When near Quay's I saw a bunch of seventy-five Plover. We got out and set coys. They did not come back, so at two we picked up and went to Pocomo, where we lay until seven P.M., and no ducks came in. On the way we saw the Plover again and started them up, but no chance to get a shot at them. I have had enough of ducking at night. It is a *myth* down here. During the morning we got a few birds. Wind hauled from S.W. to N.W. and then to South but it was a red hot day and calm and no chance to do much. Home at 9 o'clock P.M.

G. H. M.

4 Golden Plover
6 Pectoral Sandpipers
2 American Bittern

Nantucket, September 15, 1877

Brad and I started after dinner for the marsh next Fish's house, where I had seen the Green-heads yesterday. When we reached Fish's we found two men (Dunham's) in the pasture above. We went down and set, and never saw anything until about half past four, when the birds began to move a little and we succeeded in getting a few shots, but the birds came badly, as we were obliged, owing to the nature of the ground, to set out "coys" to windward. The Dunhams got six Green-heads and we led them one.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 26, 1877

I came down from Boston last night and of course was anxious to have a shot next day, so as Brad did not want to

go, not having any faith, Seth Ackley and myself started off about six o'clock A.M. We rode from the Miacomet Pond to Smith's Point. It was a very foggy morning, and a good breeze from S.W. At the Long Pond I saw a flock of about 25 Black Ducks asleep, except one or two, so we took the horse out and started to crawl. We went to the edge of the Pond and had to shoot about 55 yards. We stopped five with the first and one with the second. It was a great success as they were scattered. We kept on up to the Creeks but saw nothing of any account. Fog cleared about ten o'clock.

6 Black Ducks
3 Black-breasted Plover
1 Golden Plover
2 Pectoral Sandpipers
7 Ring Necks

19

G. H. M.

September 27, 1877

Seth and myself started about six o'clock with same kind of a day as yesterday. We went to the southern ponds and then back to Long Pond and then up to the *end* of Eel Point. We *saw* 2 Grass birds, 2 Yellowlegs, 1 Golden Plover and 4 Bittern. The fog did not wholly clear until afternoon and it was warmer and less breeze. The Plover have all left the Island, and the shooting was over just two weeks ago and I do not expect to go much more. I don't think I should get anything if I did. Wind S.W., light, until noon, when it hauled northeast and light. I call it pretty DRY shooting.

4 Bittern
1 Winter Yellowleg
1 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 28, 1877

As they were going out to the Creeks clamming this morning I went out with them and took my gun. I saw very few

birds. It was a thick fog; wind N.E. The birds are all gone and no shooting to be had. On Monday we are going to Muskeget for one night and hope to pick up a duck or two and some few Black-breast Plover. There were four Heron and I crawled on to them and made a long shot, getting one.

1 Great Blue Heron
1 Golden Plover
1 Red-breasted Sandpiper

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, Nantucket, Mass.
October 1, 1877

Seth Ackley, Bradley, Ned Palmer and myself started on a trip up to Muskeget, where we arrived nicely and remained until the morning of the third. We saw *no* birds of any kind, but we had a nice time. The island is now cut in two and is changing all the time. Smith's Island has made out almost abreast of Muskeget and way beyond Gravel Island. We caught some Blue fish and scup and shot some small birds.

40 White birds (Sanderlings)
2 Chicken Plover, Turnstone
1 Golden-wing Woodpecker

G. H. M.

43

Nantucket, October 4, 1877

Brad and I took a ride after dinner, taking in the Miacomet Pond, and then right along to the Creeks. We saw one little bunch of Pale-bellies and a few Black Ducks.

2 Golden Plover
2 Red-backed Sandpipers

G. H. M.

October 5, 1877

It is blowing a living gale from the north, having been S.E. with rain before daylight. We drove to Miacomet Pond and then south to Madequecham Pond. It was all the horse

could do to stem the wind, and we found it very uncomfortable, and not having seen anything we concluded to give it up and come home to dinner. Saw one duck and two or three Grass birds.

G. H. M.

1 Grass Bird (Brad), Pectoral Sandpiper
1 Peep (Brad)

Nantucket, October 6, 1877

Brad and I started out after breakfast and rode to Quay's Point where we found a bunch of about 25 Green-heads, so we set coys and I drove them up, but they did not come. Then I suggested to Brad to go to Pocomo meadows and I would remain until he returned, which he did and shot two Winter Yellowlegs. I had half the bunch come back to me but all separated and I only got two. We then drove to Sconset and home by way of the southern ponds, but saw nothing but a few Black Ducks. Wind N. West, light; beautiful day. I go back for good Monday to Boston.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover
3 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Hooded Merganser

6
1 Cormorant (common), *P. carbo*

7

Osterville, Cape Cod, Mass.
March 4, 1878

Geo. Kendall, Frazar and myself left this 4 o'clock P.M. for Capt. J. P. Hodges to try the bedded Coot. We arrived at 8¼ o'clock P.M. with wind *fresh* N.W. Next morning found us still at the house as the wind was too fresh for us to go out on the shoals. In the afternoon it moderated and the boys

went out for a sail and the Great Douglass made a long shot at a bunch of Old Squaws and secured one.

G. H. M.

1 Old Squaw

March 6, 1878

We started at 3½ A.M. with a calm, and sixteen men to go off on Horseshoe Shoal. Our boat was a large carryaway fish boat, and took all our small boats inside except two which we towed. At light or rather sunrise it breezed up, and our start really commenced at this time, with wind S.W. nearly ahead and *very cold*. We could not find the *bed* of fowl we started after, but finally pitched the small boats over at 10 A.M., about one and a half miles to the west of the Cross Rip Light boat, with wind breezing and some little sea, in seven fathoms of water and very *strong tide*. I got unfortunately to leeward and had a hard row to get back to the line. As it increased blowing we were obliged to pick up in a short hour and come home with a total of 9 Coot for the entire crowd, but the Great Douglass and I got nine of them. Geo. K. did not leave the large boat to shoot, as he thought it would not pay for a short time. This kind of shooting is different from any of my previous experience, and I cannot say I think the game warrants the risk of weather and long distance one has to go and come. We went 8½ miles from home out into the open Sound, where it is rough, and the strong tide to handle a boat in, together with the cold, makes it all in all a trip that is likely to result in disappointment, for the reason that a moderate day on which you can shoot you cannot get off on the ground in season, and if moderate after you reach there you might be unable to get home at night for want of wind; as well as the risk of encountering heavy blows, which are likely at this season of the year. I have not learned of any very large bags being made, 38 being the most I have ever heard of any one man's killing in one day, but I can see that

with everything arranged and working well, especially in regard to the weather, a *very large bag* of Coot *might* be obtained.

1 Razor-billed Auk
9 Coot

G. H. M.

Long Cove, Patchogue
Long Island, N. Y.
March 10, 1878

We left Boston yesterday and came down today (Sunday) on the 8.45 A.M. train. We found Baldwin waiting for us and at 2 o'clock P.M. we were on the beach enjoying some roast ducks. In the afternoon we took a walk about two miles to the eastward and saw a good many Geese, but there don't seem to be many Broadbill in sight. The wind has been S.W., gentle breeze all day and weather very moderate and warm. It looks now rather unfavorable in regard to weather for tomorrow. We rather expect to go east to set tomorrow.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 11, 1878

We got up at 3 o'clock *as usual* and went off to Colonel's Island Point of flat and anchored, as it looked lowering and windy. After a short time wind came east fresh and increased so much that we saw it was impossible to set the box, so at half past eight we pulled up and started for the house quite discouraged, as it would seem as if our old luck here regarding the weather was likely to be repeated. It has blown strong S.E. all day and the prospect is very poor for tomorrow and I doubt if we get off. "However, I don't know what we are going to do about it."

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 12, 1878

I got up at 12.20 and took a look at the weather and found it storming as hard as ever. At 3 o'clock the old clock went

off and I listened to the howling wind a moment and then turned over with a sigh, there being no show. It has been blowing from the N.E. and storming with rain all day long, and at nine o'clock P.M. I see no let-up in prospect and I am prepared to find another stormy day, which will make half our time here a blank. It is too bad.

G. H .M.

Long Cove, March 13, 1878

We did not set until 10½ o'clock A.M. as it was very calm and we tried to go east to find the fowl. Not being able to accomplish this we came back to Colonel's Island Point of flat and set, with the wind, what little there was, S.W. It breezed up quite fresh at noon, but all died away afterwards. I shot miserably today and we ought to have had twenty birds. This evening we had another squall and rain at 8 o'clock P.M. tonight. Wind still holds S.W. but I rather look for it to come N.W. tomorrow.

G. H. M.

5 Brant
3 Red Heads
3 Broadbill

11

Ought to have had 25 birds.

Long Cove, March 14(?), 1878

We were all set at daylight on Colonel's Island ground. It looked windy but nothing came of it. The wind went to N.W. and then back to S.W. where it remained all day. At 4 o'clock P.M. a squall came up with wind and rain, so we picked up. We saw a great many geese on their flight today and there are lots of Brant in the Bay. Should think I saw over two thousand, not so many Broadbills. We shot poorly again

today and I am very much ashamed of my whole performance thus far.

G. H. M.

2 Brant
1 Red Head
1 Whistler
2 Coot
12 Broad Bill

18

Ought to have had 30 birds.

Long Cove, March 14, 1878

When we got up this A.M. Geo. K. said he would not go as he had a headache. So I started off alone and at quarter of six I was all ready in the box with wind north, fresh and calm at intervals. In the P.M. it came S.W., but nothing flew except some of the Brant that were sitting around. Geo. K. appeared in time to go into the box at 9.30, at which time I had shot seven Brant, six Broadbills, one Goose, and three Sheldrakes. It was a fine day and I enjoyed it very much. We leave here tomorrow on the P.M. train, which will give us a chance for a little sport in the morning.

G. H. M.

13 Broadbill
8 Brant
1 Goose
3 Sheldrakes, Red-breasted
1 Golden-eyed Widgeon

26

Long Cove, March 15, 1878

As we start for home this noon, we concluded to set off Watch Hill ground, and were all ready at light, with wind fresh from the north, consequently little chance. I went in first. There were but few fowl moving. We picked up at

10½ o'clock A.M. and I rowed ashore in the small boat with G. K. We think we have had as good a week as we could have selected for this month, but there were scarcely any Broadbill this spring and I do not expect to hear of many more. The very mild weather has induced them to keep on their passage north. I never saw more Brant or Geese here, but little sport can be depended on from these. Altogether we had a very fair time of it this trip.

G. H. M.

2 Brant
5 Broadbill, larger Scaup
1 Golden-eyed Widgeon

8

West Island, R. I.
April 13, 1878

Geo. Kendall, D. Frazar and I left on the 8.35 A.M. for the above place. We arrived about 1.15 P.M., but as the wind was very fresh N. West we concluded to stay on shore.

April 14, 1878

We, that is D.F. and I (as G.K. was sick), started off for the Clump at day break. The wind was fresh N.W. until about 2 o'clock P.M. when it moderated and, as I write this P.M., is calm. We were much pleased to find so many fowl moving with such a poor wind. They flew wild, however, and many went outside of us. I had the inside berth at first but soon changed for the outside one. We came in to breakfast at 9.30 o'clock A.M. and did not go out again until 4 o'clock P.M.

G. H. M.

14 Coot, Scoters

Heard this morning, as I rowed out before daylight, what I supposed were a pair of Piping Plover (?). They were on a rock.

West Island, R. I.
April 15, 1878

The other boys did not feel like going out this morning. I therefore started off alone and I was rowing out just as the sun came out of the water. The wind, what little there was, was North. It was one of those beautiful days one enjoys so much at this time of year. It was also quite warm. I consider I did very well as I came in at 9.30 or 10 o'clock to breakfast with *14*. After my breakfast the wind came S.W., very light, and remained so all the rest of the day, at times almost if not quite a calm. The boys went off when the change came and I soon followed, but as the places were all taken and there was not much moving I came in after an hour or so. The other boys stuck it out until after six, but did not do much. There is a good show of weather for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

19 Coot, Scoters

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1878

We got up at quarter of three o'clock. The wind was N.E. light but afterwards breezed up. We came ashore at 12¼ o'clock. We had hoped for a S.W. day but it did not come. There were ten boats out, but we had the inner berths. We shot down a number of Red-throated Divers today but only bagged *one*. They are *hard* subjects. As there was not much show this P.M., we did not go out again but cleaned up and took a nap all round. The result of the day is as follows:

1 Great Northern Diver (13 lbs.) by G. H. M.
2 Red-throated Diver
26 Coot, Scoters

29

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 17, 1878

Geo. K. still under the weather, so D.F. and myself only shot today, so we determined not to be late and consequently were up at quarter of three o'clock. We did not get off for nearly three quarters of an hour. Day was just breaking and only a little air N.E. We found six boats out and all the places taken. D.F. took the extreme inner one and I the extreme outer. The other boats all went home at 8 o'clock A.M. and D.F. and I moved and with another man made a new line. We came in at 12 o'clock and went out after dinner. D. F. only remained a short time and I followed him in about an hour afterwards, as the fowl did not fly. I shot well today and killed twenty-five. My shooting before has not been quite up to standard. G. H. M.

32 Coot, Scoters

West Island, R. I., April 18, 1878

The other boys being still under the weather, I started off alone with wind N.W. light. When I reached the Clump I found six boats ahead of me, although I was up at four o'clock. I, however, took the inside berth, pretty near shore. It was the dryest day I have seen this trip, nothing moved and I came in at half past seven A.M. and did not go out again today. The wind hauled to N.E., then South by West, fair breeze, at which point it now holds, and it looks as if we might have a fair day's shooting tomorrow, in which I am sorry to say G. K. does not feel able to take part (as he is still under the weather) even "if they do fly." G. H. M.

1 Long-tailed Duck

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1878

D. F. and myself got up at quarter of three o'clock. It was a beautiful S.W. breeze and every promise of a good

Coot day. We went and anchored off the Clump to wait for light; when it came we found a line of 13 boats formed off the Comet Rock. This turned off all our birds and at 7½ o'clock I had none and D. F. four. We then pulled up and down to the other boats and went into line back of them. There were a good many Coot flying, but when they saw such a formidable array of boats (15) to pass through, they "climbed." The line all broke up about 10 o'clock and we came in about noon. I had 26 and D. F. 11, which was satisfactory, as we both shot well. A better day for Coot to fly could not be made to order, only it was a little too cold I think. Geo. K. not out today.

G. H. M.

37 Coot, Scoters

West Island, R. I.
April 20, 1878

This is our last day here for this year; but having had pretty good shooting and being a little tired, we concluded not to go out, as we were to leave at noon. The wind was S. E. light, and it was a fine day for Coot. They flew splendidly and had we gone off should have had fine sport. The trip as a whole has been a success, and the time selected as good as could have been chosen, I think. The *first* flight of fowl was on the 10th; the next on the 19th and 20th. We arrived home all right at 5.40 and we all reached our houses in time for supper. The grand total of the trip was *133*, the best I have ever done here. We hope to come again next year.

G. H. M.

P.S. On the Beach Point, saw eight Piping Plover (?). The following week after our departure was very stormy with rain and but few Coot killed.

Nantucket, Mass., July 10, 1878

As it had been blowing hard S. West for a couple of days I thought I might get a few birds. I was up early, but it blew

so hard, with some rain, that I gave it up. At 10 o'clock A.M. it moderated, and with Capt. Wyer I started under two reefs for Pocomo marshes. I saw quite a number of Summer Yellowlegs, but they would not coy, and the wind was too strong for the whistle to be heard far. I had a number of misfires. As I sat in open sight a bunch of Black Ducks came down on to me from behind. I let into them before I thought it was against the law and shot three with the first barrel. I did not fire another as it flashed on me. I let several good shots at ducks go by afterwards. I think the flight is passing in this southwest gale.

G. H. M.

3 Black Ducks
3 Summer Yellowlegs

Nantucket, July 11, 1878

The wind was N.W., but thinking that some birds might have remained on the marshes, I got Capt. Wyer to go with me to sail the boat. We got away about seven o'clock A.M. We went first to the southern glades, saw two birds and got them; then to northern, saw nothing but a little bunch of five Brown backs on their flight, and got one of them. Then we went to Pocomo and saw a few birds, not many. Then we dropped over on Cotui and I made a long shot at some Jack Curlew, hit one hard, but that's all the good it did. I ought to have had one to pay me for the long crawl I made to get near them, through *ivy* and *sich*.

G. H. M.

4 Brown-backs, Dowich
1 Winter Yellowleg
4 Summer Yellowlegs
4 Peeps
1 Quawk, Black-crowned Night Heron

Nantucket, July 16, 1878

Brad and I started with the wind N.E., light, for Pocomo and Coskatee. After going the rounds without seeing a bird,

we had dinner at Wawinnet, and a nap, and then returned back. On the way we saw a pair of Winters and Brad got one. There was a *good* chance at Black Ducks *lost today*.

G. H. M.

1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, July 18, 1878

With a fine stiff wind, S.W. and W., Capt. Wyer and I drove up to Pocomo meadows. I had made up my slate for some birds, as it was a grand day for them. We left the house at seven A.M. with nearly high water. After two or three hours, not having *seen* a bird, I came home disgusted, and don't know where the birds are. There should have been some.

G. H. M.

11 Peeps

Nantucket, July 25, 1878

I started off at 6½ A.M. for Pocomo meadows, with wind S. West, rather moderate. On arrival found four birds on the marsh and shot two of them. Then set coys and *sot* and *sot* for three hours and a half. *Three* birds passed over the whole marsh and I got down two of them. I drove home by way of Quay's Point and shot one Upland and one Jack Curlew. It was pretty warm, but good breeze blowing. I am about sick of this style of shooting, but the *hunting* is excellent.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew
1 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpiper
1 Long-legged Sandpiper (rare), Stilt Sandpiper
2 Summer Yellowlegs
15 Peeps

Nantucket, July 26, 1878

I drove out to Quay's Point this P.M. (12½ o'clock), as I had seen some Jack Curlew flying around there yesterday.

The wind was very fresh S.W. I set coys and built a stand. A small bunch came to me wide off and not together. I managed to kill two of them. In a little while I picked up. In driving home shot an Upland Plover.

G. H. M.

2 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpiper

3

Nantucket, August 7, 1878

Brad and I drove out about 3 o'clock P.M. to Gideon's Valley, after a few Grass Plover I had seen the day before. Brad did all the shooting from the wagon, and we got four birds. B. made one *very fine* long shot.

G. H. M.

4 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpiper

August 9, 1878

Brad, Capt. Wyer and myself went up to Quay's Point and set the Curlew coys. We got the bunch up to us (seven of them) but, while we waited to get four of them near enough for a shot, they all went off. I made a very long shot at the last one and shot him down into the water, but lost him, as the wind took him out and our boat was half a mile away. I saw two Golden Plover today, which is the earliest I have ever known. It looks like a S.E. storm tonight. We went to Wawinnet and got a soaking coming home; a dead beat the whole way and a gale of wind.

G. H. M.

1 Turnstone
1 Solitary Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 14, 1878

I drove up as far as the Creeks today with Capt. Wyer, and reached home again at 11 o'clock A.M., having started at

4½ o'clock A.M. We saw *nothing* but some Upland Plover, which I did not bother about. Brad drove out after dinner to the south shore and got two Uplands.

2 Upland Plover

August 16, 1878

I drove out after dinner to see if any Plover had landed, but as it came on to rain I was driven back to the house. On the way I picked up the following birds. We have had a great deal of rain the past two days. Wind S.W.

G. H. M.

1 Upland Plover
2 Pectoral Sandpipers

3

August 18, 1878

We drove out after dinner and went from Gideon's Valley to Nobadeer Pond, as we wanted to see if any Golden Plover had landed during the late rain. We heard of one flock of about 25, but saw none. However, we picked up the following. Brad did all the shooting, as I did not care to take my gun. Wind S.W.

G. H. M.

3 Brown-backs, Dowich
9 Pectoral Sandpipers

12

August 19, 1878

Brad and I started for Pocomo at 6½ o'clock A.M. Wind N.W., and clear after the rain. We only *saw* a Summer Yellowleg. We then drove to Quay's Farm and *saw* one Jack Curlew, so we started for home and reached there disgusted at 10¼ o'clock A.M.

G. H. M.

4 Peeps, by Brad

Nantucket, August 22, 1878

Drove out after breakfast and went from the Hummock Pond to the Nobadeer Pond, but saw no birds, except some Black Ducks. Home in time for dinner. Horse from today at $1.50. I have heard of two or three Green-heads being shot thus far, and saw one of them. Wind N.E. and N., cold.

1 Upland Plover

August 23, 1878

Drove out to the Miacomet Plain and set decoys. Wind N.E., cool. After remaining an hour and half and seeing no sign of life, I gave it up and came home and reached there at a quarter of ten without having fired my gun.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 24, 1878

I drove out with Capt. Wyer at 6 o'clock A.M. and went from the Hummock to Madequecham Ponds, but saw nothing but six Jacks and some Upland Plover, all out of shot. Wind N.E., afterwards S.W.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 26, 1878

We had a little rain storm last evening, but I thought nothing of it, as it did not amount to much; but as I had seen a small bunch of Green-heads (about 14) on some burnt ground near Mioxe Pond, I thought I would go after them after breakfast. On reaching the spot I found about 25 birds on it. With great difficulty, as my horse was restive, I got one shot at them when they flew up, and I shot three. I then set coys, hoping they would return. It seems that some birds landed last night, as I saw a few in the air. I *saw* one flock of sixty or seventy Doe birds and got them to my decoys, but not together, and so only shot eight out of them. I came home

to dinner and then heard that *thousands* of *Plover* had landed, but I do not believe that over 200 to 250 birds were on the Island. I was very lucky and shot more than all the other gunners. I went out after dinner also. Wind was light, North and West.

G. H. M.

2 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
8 Esquimau Curlew
14 Golden Plover
1 Upland Plover, Bartramian

25

August 27, 1878

Capt. Wyer and I were up early and drove to Quaise farm and found no birds, did not *see* a bird. We then drove over the commons to the south shore, where we found plenty of gunners and a bunch of about 50 Doe birds which no one could get at. I got out and set coys and Capt. Wyer drove around them. When Brad appeared on the scene on the other side, both drove to meet with the birds between them, and they got within easy shot and stopped 10. They afterwards came by me and I got a few. I think these are all the birds now left on the Island.

1 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
1 Winter Yellowleg
2 Esquimau Curlew } G. H. M.
4 Esquimau Curlew, Capt. Wyer
9 Esquimau Curlew, Brad
1 Upland Plover, Brad

18

August 28, 1878

No show for birds. Saw only one Doe bird, which I lost, as gun missed fire with the first barrel and I did not hit him with the second as I as in the wagon and horse did not stand

well. Gave it up and came home to dinner. Did not go out until after breakfast. Wind N.E., light, clear.

G. H. M.

3 Upland Plover

Nantucket, August 29, 1878

Ben Toby shot an English Snipe (Wilson) today.

Nantucket, August 30, 1878

I went and set coys on the spot where I shot the 25 birds a few days ago, and remained until eleven o'clock. Did not have a bird come, and only saw a bunch in the distance. After dinner I went out to same place and remained a while, then picked up and drove to Trott's Hills, saw one bunch of wild Green-heads.

G. H. M.

1 Upland Plover

(Monday) September 2, 1878

I got up at quarter of four A.M. and went to Saturday's stand in a thick fog, wind S.W. Remained until eleven A.M. and then walked home. Only saw three birds (wild), got one. Fog cleared at 8.30 A.M. and remained clear until 4 o'clock, then thick again. No birds of any account on the Island.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 18, 1878

I came down from Boston last evening and learned there had been quite a flight of Green-heads on the afternoon of the 12th and 13th. I learned some 300 to 400 birds were shot, mostly on Tuckernuck. I drove out today with Capt. Wyer: went first to Quaise Point, saw nothing; then to Pocomo, saw only one Winter Yellowleg and about 15 Green-heads in the distance; then we drove across to Gibb's Pond, saw nothing;

then to Touchee Pond, where I crawled up to what I supposed were four or five ducks. At the first barrel about 40 Black Ducks jumped up and I gave them the second barrel. Knocked down seven in all and got six. *Felt good.* We then drove home in time for supper, having been out since 10 o'clock A.M. Wind S.W., then N.W. Saw no more plover.

6 Black Duck
1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, September 20, 1878

I heard last night that the Plover had struck on, and although I did not believe it I concluded to go out and be on hand. I found I was right: not a bird had landed. I arose at $3\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock A.M., had breakfast, went and got Capt. Wyer, and we started for our stands, where we remained until 8 o'clock A.M., only having one bunch of 15 come to the decoys, out of which I shot five, and a Dough bird, with four shells. I lost the latter, however, in the grass. Not seeing any other birds up to 8 o'clock, we picked up and drove by way of Gideon's Valley to the Touchee Pond, and saw nothing, the ponds being all filled up with salt water which came over the beach yesterday. We reached home at one o'clock P.M., where we only remained a short time. Then went out to where we were in the morning, and I got five up to four o'clock P.M., when we gave it up and came home. There are now scarcely any plover on the Island, and those few very wild, having run the gauntlet many times. I found I had done well, as none of the rest of the boys had killed a bird.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew, Hudsonian
1 Red-breasted Snipe
10 Golden Plover

12

1 Hyperborean Phalarope, northern (rare)

Nantucket, September 23, 1878

Having heard that there was a bunch of Green-heads at 'Sconset, I got up at 3 o'clock A.M. and with Capt. Wyer drove up there. We were doomed, however, to be disappointed, as we only saw them once in the distance. We came home by way of Gibbs Pond, where we fooled away an hour and a half, trying to get at about 35 Black Ducks. We then came home, and after a while went out to Mioxe Pond, on the burnt ground, but saw only one very wild bunch, into which we both fired at long range, but did not get any out of it. The Capt. shot two wild pigeons, and myself one Green-head, and this was the total of a very long day's work.

2 Passenger Pigeons
1 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 25, 1878

Capt. Wyer and I started after breakfast and went by boat to Cotui, where we saw one Green-head and shot him; then we went up to Quaise, where I got four Winters; then over to Pocomo, did not see a bird; then back to Cotui, was nothing; then home. It was almost a calm all day, the little air being Southwest. It was also very hot. Birds are *very scarce*. There has been no flight of pale breast as yet, and I have shot only two or three thus far.

G. H. M.

4 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Golden Plover

—

5
2 Golden Plover, September 26, 1878
2 Golden Plover, September 27, 1878

Nantucket, October 7, 1878

Brad and I drove to Eel Point, but saw nothing. In driving off we hit a stake, and the horse went out of the harness and

ran to town with Brad after him. I waited their return and meantime found some English Snipe, and after banging away five or six times managed to kill one. Before long Brad came in sight with another horse and wagon, and his own on behind with our man. We then drove to the end of Smith's Point and did not see a bird. Then home by way of the Hummock and Miacomet Pond, but saw nothing and did not have a shot. Tomorrow we will see how it looks eastward.

G. H. M.

1 English Snipe, Wilson's

October 8, 1878

Brad and I drove to Quaise farm, then to Pocomo, then over to Gibbs Pond, and home. We only *saw* one pale belly, which Brad missed. I never knew birds so scarce. I saw a strange-looking bird flying about the bushes, and shot him. I called him a Mocking bird, and how he got here "no feller can find out." I took his skin off and shall show him when I get to the city. (It is now in the New England collection of Boston Society of Natural History.)

G. H. M.

1 Mocking Bird

Nantucket, October 9, 1878

Took a drive and in coming home saw five Green-heads, so after I reached the house I turned back with my gun. I found them, but as they were very shy I only got one.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, October 14, 1878

I started out alone at 5.30 A.M. and drove to Quaise farm, then over to Pocomo, where I started out about 150 Black Ducks. So I took the horse out and set coys. Only one came

back, and I shot him down and left him for a *coy*, the result of which was I lost him. I then picked up and drove to Coskatee and the glades, but saw nothing of any account. I came home same way, and when I reached Quaise I saw what seemed a good Snipe meadow, so I went in, and got up six, and shot five of them. I stopped at another hole on the way home, and got up two more and shot one. I saw two bunches of Golden Plover today (pale breast), very wild. Wind N.E., almost a calm.

G. H. M.

6 English Snipe, Wilson's
1 Winter Yellowleg
1 Black-breasted Plover
4 Peeps

12

Nantucket, October 15, 1878

I went up the harbor with the hopes of sailing on to some Coot, for when I was up that way yesterday I saw a good many, and only one boat after them. We found quite a number, but the most of them were too shy. Still we got near enough to a number, but somehow we could not seem to kill them, and I was considerably taken down, one shot especially when I fired point blank into a bunch of ten all together and only got *one* dead bird out of it, and they were near enough. I ought to have bagged *twice* what I did, and I for one think I made very poor work of it, and the worst of it is I don't know what was the matter, as I seemed to hit them about every time. Wind very fresh, S.W., and clear, and warm.

G. H. M.

7 Coot, Scoters
2 Sheldrake, Red-breasted

Nantucket, October 16, 1878

Brad and I went after dinner to try and find some English Snipe, but were not rewarded by the sight of one, although

I hunted hard for them. We drove to Quaise farm and Pocomo meadows, but saw only two birds, and we each shot one. In fact there are no birds here now. Wind fresh, S. West, clear and pleasant.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover
1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, October 19, 1878

Capt. Wyer and I started for Pocomo meadows about 10½ A.M., to lie for Black Ducks, as it was blowing a gale from the S.E. We were not fixed until 12½ o'clock, as we had to build a stand. We remained until 4 o'clock P.M. Only eleven ducks came into the meadows and not one came to the coys; result: two disgusted men.

G. H. M.

1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, October 22, 1878

Brad and I started after breakfast and drove east. When we came to the marsh opposite Joe Folger's house, we saw some English Snipe jumping up and down. There were about a dozen of them, but as there was no cover, the grass being very short, they would not lie, and we only got one. We then drove into Quaise but saw nothing. We still went east, and when we were opposite Sanford's new barn, I went into the marsh after snipe. I started six, shot three dead, and lost every one of them in the grass. We then drove to Pocomo and saw 11 Winter Yellowlegs, but they were too shy for us. From here we went over to Sachacha Pond, where we saw four Winters and shot them all, but lost one which fell out in the Pond. We then came home, but stopped at the Folger snipe ground, and I shot one. Then we stopped at a reed pond next to Burgess farm and started a number of snipe and shot two. And then we came home.

G. H. M.

4 English Snipe, Wilson's
3 Winter Yellowlegs
2 Pectoral Sandpipers
1 Golden Plover

10

Nantucket, October 23, 1878

It was rather a stormy day, with wind S.W., when Brad and I drove out to the Folger lot to see if there were any English snipe in it. We went after breakfast and were home before 12 o'clock noon. We did not find many. This is the last of my shooting here for this year.

G. H. M.

2 English Snipe, Wilson's

Notes

From July 15 to 24 for Red-breasted Snipe and Lesser Yellowlegs. The best time usually from the 17th to 27th. From the 20th to the 30th be on the lookout for Hudsonian Curlew and the larger birds.

Geo. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 22, 1879

The spring being about two weeks late as compared with last year, I concluded to put off our coming, and as a result Mr. Gray and myself started on the 8.35 train this morning, with wind N.W. The previous week was very stormy, and much wind and snow. It cleared on the 20th, on which date as well as the 21st and 22d considerable many fowl flew, a good share of which, however, were from the eastward. No large flight going east has as yet taken place. When we were within an hour's ride of the Island, the wind backed in S. West, gentle breeze. We arrived at one o'clock P.M., and at 3

o'clock were off the Clump, where we remained until nearly sunset. Considerable many Coot flew, and we managed to get a few. The prospect for tomorrow is *good*, as wind still holds S.W., and we hope to have some fun tomorrow.

G. H. M.

9 Coot, Scoters

West Island, R. I.
April 23, 1879

We got up at quarter of three o'clock and found wind S.W. and every prospect of a "Coot" day, and congratulated ourselves on having secured the two best berths. Scarcely any fowl flew, and I am unable to account for it. At 8 o'clock A.M. we came in and had breakfast, after which I went off again, this time off the Clump. In the early morning we were off the high rocks. At 12½ o'clock the wind came N.W. and blew hard all the rest of the day, but died down at sunset, and it looks this evening like another S.W. day tomorrow. I came in when the change came this noon, but was unfortunately about half a mile to leeward, and I had all I wanted to get back to the Island, my hands being rather tender. There seems to be some breeze moving N.W. as I write. We did not do much on the Coot day. It was also rather cool.

G. H. M.

10 Coot
1 Squaw
—
11

West Island, R. I.
April 24, 1879

As the wind was N.W., light, we did not turn out until four o'clock. We anchored off the Clump. Quite a number of fowl flew from the east, much more than from the west. As it breezed up about half past nine and the fowl stopped moving, we came ashore and did not go out again today. The

wind remained the same until five o'clock P.M., when it changed to east, then S.W., afterwards West and West by South, and this evening it is S.W. with rather more air moving. The weather looks a little dubious, still I rather expect we shall be able to get off in the morning. I shot poorly today; have not got the hang of it quite yet.

G. H. M.

15 Coot, Scoters
1 Sheldrake, Red-breasted

16

West Island, R. I.
April 25, 1879

We started out about 4.30. It was a dead calm, and scarcely any fowl moving. The vane said the wind was N. We came in for breakfast at 8.30 with sixteen fowl. At eleven o'clock the wind came S.E. and then East, and as the fowl commenced to fly we went off again and anchored off the high rock. In the morning we were off the Clump. There were no other boats off but ourselves. We needed another one badly, to make up the line. We also miss not having any bladders, very much. I think it makes a difference of certainly as many as we get without them. Tonight it is blowing fresh from the east, and weather looks dubious for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

1 Loon, by G. H. M.
17 Coot

18

West Island, R. I.
April 26, 1879

The wind being north and northeast, and no particular prospect of the fowl flying, we concluded we would not go off at all, so we remained around the house until nearly 4 o'clock

P.M., when we rowed off and set outside the High Rocks. There was scarcely anything moving inside, although considerable many flew outside. We each shot one bird. The wind remained N.E. all day, but died down late in the P.M., and as I write is about calm. We hope for a good day tomorrow.

G. H. M.

1 Coot
1 Red-necked Grebe

2

West Island, R. I.
April 27, 1879

We got off a little before 5 o'clock A.M. What little air there was, was N.E., but it was a dead calm. We anchored off the Clump. There were scarcely any fowl flying. We changed and anchored off the Hopper and picked up a few birds, and at 10 o'clock came in to breakfast. After a while it began to breeze up from the east, say at noon, and finally S.E. There were a few fowl moved when the breeze came up, but it kept very calm all day. We came ashore at 3½ o'clock and did not go out again. We anchored off the Hopper again, where we were last. We go home tomorrow and the weather looks rainy. Thus far there has been *no* regular flight of fowl, and the wind has been northerly or easterly all the time we have been here. The season is over. Two weeks behind last year at this time.

G. H. M.

25 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 28, 1879

We found it quite calm at 4 o'clock A.M., the little breeze being N.E. It afterwards came E. and then S.E., where it holds, with *very* thick fog. There were scarcely any fowl moving. The weather has been against us this trip. The fowl

have not, however, gone along as yet, not a single flight having taken place. We came in about nine o'clock A.M. with eleven, just the number we needed to make us a grand total of *100* for the trip. We shot down several Loons today, but did not get them. When we reached the house we cleaned and packed up, as we go home this noon. We have both enjoyed the trip very much, and I feel much better for it, in which Bob Gray joins me.

G. H. M.

11 Coot. Grand total for the trip, 102 Coot

Nantucket, Mass., August 25, 1879

I came down on the 24th at night. This A.M. is moderate and rather warm. Brad and I went to Coskatee, then round by way of the southern ponds to Gideon's Valley, home. We saw *nothing*, and only shot 1 Grass bird and some Peeps.

G. H. M.

August 26, 1879

Last night a number of small bunches of Golden Plover landed, but they were not inclined to remain. I saw one bunch go away. I built a stand at south head of Reedy Pond, but shot nothing there. I then drove to Smith's Point. On the way had a long shot into a bunch of some 50 Golden Plover, and got four.

G. H. M.

4 Golden Plover
4 Bartramian Sandpipers
1 Yellowleg
1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper

—

10

August 27, 1879

Wind fresh Northeast, looked like rain, and rained last night. Brad and I started at 6½ o'clock. I lay in a stand

on the ridge to the south of Gideon's Valley, and Brad went in my old stand at head of the Reedy Pond. He soon got tired and drove on to the Creeks and I remained in my stand. While he was gone I saw a number of small bunches of Green-heads. I shot in all six Green-heads, and Brad two and one Brown-back and Peeps.

G. H. M.

8 Golden Plover
1 Brown-back, Dowich
Peeps

9

August 28, 1879

We have same kind of weather as yesterday. We are having quite a long storm. If the wind had only been S. East we should have had the largest flight of Plover known for years, as they are passing every day. I did not go out this morning, but after dinner I drove to the Burgess farm, where there was a small bunch of Green-heads and Black-breast Plover. I had to drive them out to set the decoys, and they came back mostly singly, so I got about all of them, and I have not enjoyed so small a shoot so much for years.

G. H. M.

6 Black-breasted Plover
4 Golden Plover

10

August 28(?), 1879

Wind S.W. Capt. Wyer and I went to the Ram pasture, reached there about 9 o'clock, and remained until 3 P.M. Only had one bunch of a dozen and a single one to the "coys."

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover

August 29, 1879

Capt. Wyer and I got up early and went to Gideon's Valley, with the wind N.W. We picked up at 10 o'clock. Only

saw three birds and shot one. This ends my shooting for this trip, as I go to Boston tomorrow.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

September 28, 1879

I came down last night to bring my family home. I took a drive today and saw one bunch of about 40 Plover flying around in Trott's Hills. I got out and went up to a piece of ploughed ground, thinking they might come around. They did so in a few moments and I got a double shot into them and knocked out seven. I saw no other birds that day.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover

September 29, 1879

Capt. Wyer and I were up early and were all set on the ploughed ground where I had the shot yesterday, at daylight. We remained until 9 o'clock without seeing a bird. I then went down to a small pond and shot a Black Duck, and the Capt. took a drive in the hills. He drove onto a bunch of 12 Green-heads and shot three. We then picked up and went to the Creeks, but saw nothing, and came home by way of the ploughed ground where we were in the morning. We found five birds on it. I got out and set some coys and the Capt. drove on to them. He shot and stopped two and hurt another which I afterwards shot.

6 Golden Plover
1 Black Duck

The weather in September has been very favorable to land plover, and there were three or four small flights, and the shooting was *good* all through September; in fact much

better than it has been for some years. As I have been kept in the city all summer, I was unable to avail of it. This closes *Volume 2d* of my shooting experience, and I begin another the next time I go. I daresay it will be my *last* when completed, as it covers some years. I can only say I hope not.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, Patchogue
Great South Bay, Long Island, N. Y.
February 25, 1880

Geo. Kendall and I arrived here yesterday about two o'clock P.M., which is our first visit here for two years. The past winter having been an exceedingly open one, the Bay not having closed, and hearing that a good many Brant and Geese were already there, we concluded to start at this early date. There were but few Broadbill in the Bay until the 21st, when several thousand arrived, since which there are additions daily; but at the time of writing this, most of the Geese had departed. There is no question but what we are exactly right for the birds, as there are plenty here and more arriving daily. Our only fear is that it may be cold enough to form ice. We shot today on Fiddleton Point of flat. The weather was very moderate, with little air N. and N.W. It soon died out calm, and remained so until the afternoon, when it came Southeast moderate. We picked up at five o'clock P.M. We neither of us felt very spunky. I had a headache, and the shooting made it worse. Had we felt better, a few more fowl would have been added to the score. As it is, we did pretty well for the first day, considering we have not shot for about two years.

G. H. M.

5 Brant
1 Black Duck
13 Broadbill, larger Scaup Duck
1 Long-tailed Duck

—

20

Long Cove, February 26, 1880

Geo. K. under the weather this A.M., so I went it alone. When we started there was a good breeze, S.W., but as soon as we finished setting, it died away calm, and remained so all day, the Bay being as smooth as glass. We were on Fiddleton Point again today. We saw plenty of all kinds of fowl. The prospect is all I could ask for. We only require the right kind of weather to get some good shooting. I came out of the box as it rained about eleven o'clock, and did not go in again. There were absolutely no fowl moving, they having collected in large flocks. The weather looks rather dubious for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

3 Broadbill
2 Coot
1 Old Squaw
—
6

Long Cove, February 27, 1880

The old clock went off at $3\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock as usual. The day turned out to be a very warm calm day, equal to any in May. There were no fowl moving, so we sailed to the east end of the Bay in hopes of finding some, but being unsuccessful we went ashore at Bellport and purchased some provisions. We then turned towards home. When on Fiddleton we saw a good many Brant, and Baldwin wanted to set for them, which we did, although I had no faith. After being in an hour and a quarter I waved to take up, as I had not had a shot or a bird to the decoys. We then went west looking for Broadbill, but saw none, and I fear the large numbers here the past three days have gone on, owing to the very unusual warm weather. The whole day was a dead calm, except for about two hours in the afternoon when we had a gentle S.W. breeze. Not a bird today.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, February 28, 1880

We did not get off until five o'clock, there being but a small prospect of shooting anything. The only birds in sight were some Brant off the Porpoise Hole, so we pitched the box over there, with a gentle breeze S.E. The weather was warm and moderate, as it has been lately. There was absolutely no shooting except what few Brant were driven up to the box, and I scarcely saw a Broadbill all day. We picked up at 2½ o'clock P.M., as it began to rain a little, so as to let the boat go to Patchogue. There are now *no birds* in *sight* in the Bay, except a few Brant and one small bunch of Broadbill, as I swept the Bay with my glasses from one of the high sand hills. At dark it began to rain etc. but cleared before morning. Geo. Kendall all right and out today.

G. H. M.

1 Canada Goose (G. H. M.)
5 Brant

6

Long Cove, February 29, 1880

We have another warm, beautiful day again with a good southwest breeze, and as it was Sunday we took a walk up the beach 2½ miles to the Life Saving Station, and saw all the apparatus for landing people from wrecks. John then brought us home in a boat and we had a very pretty sail. Only a *few* scattering fowl to be seen on the way.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 1, 1880

Another fine day. Wind fresh Northwest. As there are no birds on the flats on this side, and as it blew too hard to set in the deep water on the north shore, we did not go out today. We hear that all the Broadbill I supposed had gone away are under the north shore, where it is difficult to handle them.

We went down to the Government Life Saving Station and saw the men go through the entire drill, and were much pleased. Wind N.W. all day.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 2, 1880

We started at the usual hour and went over to the north shore to find the large quantity of Broadbill, which we succeeded in doing, but they kept in such large flocks and in such deep water we were unable to do anything with them. The wind was N. West, fresh, so we gave up the idea of setting over there. We then went down to the east end of Fiddleton, where there were some Brant and Broadbill sitting. Here we concluded to throw over the box. We tried it here for two hours, and only one Broadbill to show, so we pulled all up and went still further east on the same flat, where we rigged again. The wind came S. West, fresh, and later N. West again. It was pretty chilly, and the shots were few and far between. Baldwin says he calls it *bauming* around. We did not get set until eleven and a half o'clock A.M.

4 Brant
2 Red-heads
2 Broadbill
—
8

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 3, 1880

We started off in good season, as we had to go to the north-east end of Fiddleton flat, where we had left the decoy boat and intended to set today. It was a moderate morning, wind S.W.; about nine o'clock and for the rest of the day it breezed up and blew *fresh*, three reefs for the boat. At six o'clock wind hauled more south and began to rain hard. There are a large number of birds in the Bay, mostly Broadbills. I made

poor shooting today. I don't seem to get *on* them right. The box had all she could stand; a little more wind would have compelled us to take up.

G. H. M.

1 Brant
2 Black Ducks
22 Broadbill, larger Scaup
—
25

Long Cove, March 4, 1880

It stopped raining about midnight, and we started off as usual with wind southwest, for the same place as yesterday. It breezed up quite fresh by the time we were set. I got in and remained until 9½ o'clock A.M., when I gave it up and Baldwin went in and did not come out until 2¼ o'clock P.M. He shot one Broadbill, which was the only bird that came to the decoys. I then took up and ran over to Patchogue, and on the way back we saw large flocks of Brant and Broadbill sitting in deep water. It was a good shooting day, but ever since we have been here the fowl have kept very quiet, not liking to stir around, and sitting in such deep water that it is impossible to do anything with them. When they *move* we shall have some shooting, and *then* we shall probably have no weather. It died away nearly calm late in the P.M.

G. H. M.

2 Broadbill
2 Coot
—
4

Long Cove, March 5, 1880

When I looked out at 3.15 A.M. I found the wind East and raining, so went to bed again. It continued this kind of weather until 8.30, when it cleared and wind came S.W. but still kept thick. We concluded on the whole not to go shooting today. The boat went to Patchogue, and on its return

Baldwin saw plenty of fowl. There are more fowl of all kinds here now than I have ever seen before. Still we cannot get them to fly, or sit where they can be killed, which is very aggravating. Thus far our trip has been a failure, but we have another week and hope a different state of things will exist. This P.M., wind S.W. and clear. At 7.30 P.M. the wind changed to N.W. and is now blowing very fresh.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 6, 1880

When the alarm went off we found it raining, and wind east, so we did not start. At light it looked like blowing hard, but it did nothing heavier than a two-reef breeze. We might have gone today as well as not, and were rather sorry afterwards that we remained on shore.

G. H. M.

Long Cove, March 7, 1880

Today is Sunday. Wind east and southeast. Kendall, not feeling well enough to remain longer, leaves for home. I am very sorry to lose his companionship. I went off with him and left him at the station. The weather has been lowering nearly all day and commenced to rain about 2.45 o'clock P.M. and continues this evening. There is not much wind. We had a long beat with two boats in tow getting back to the beach, which was dead to windward. On the way over we shot a crippled Brant.

G. H. M.

1 Brant

Long Cove, March 8, 1880

As it blew hard N.W. early, we did not start until after breakfast, and we then set on Colonel's Island ground, with wind fresh. Here I only shot one Brant, although I was in the box $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours. We then took up and sailed down east

below Bellport, but saw nothing. Came back and set off the house, but shot nothing, and this evening I am packing up, and leave here in time to catch the 7.25 A.M. train to New York. I think from present appearances that the spring shooting will prove a failure: too warm weather and too open a winter.

G. H. M.

1 Brant

Nantucket, July 21, 1880

Capt. Wyer and I went up to Quaise Point, where I had heard of a small bunch of Jacks (Curlew). We came home in time for 12½ o'clock dinner, I having got one shot into them.

G. H. M.

2 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Summer Yellowleg

July 25, 1880

Capt. Wyer and I drove to the Creeks early this morning, after a bunch of Curlew which we had heard of. We learned they had gone eastward. We found them on the Ram pasture, where I dug a stand and set coys for them. As usual they would not coy well, and were shy. We only shot four. I don't think we did as well as we ought to have done under the circumstances.

G. H. M.

4 Curlew, Hudsonian Jacks

Nantucket, August 1, 1880

Capt. Wyer and I went to the Ram pasture after the Curlew again. We only saw a very few, and they were very wild. I managed to get three of them. The wind was southwest.

Geo. H. M.

3 Hudsonian Curlew, Jacks

Nantucket, September 3, 1880

I came down from Boston last night, and today got up early with Capt. Wyer, to burn some ground for the Greenheads. We burnt three nice places, two in little Mioxe Valley and one in Trott's Hills. We put out the coys in Gideon's Valley about an hour and a half, in the morning, and had a bunch of about 15 come to us, out of which we shot five. We have had a hard day's work of it.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 7, 1880

I expected a change of weather after the two *hot* days just past, during which I went shooting and did not see a bird or fire my gun once. However, I did not start out until after breakfast, as wind was northeast, light, and promised rain. I found the Island thick with smoke of the burnt ground, as there were several large fires going yesterday. On the way out I did not see a bird, and I got my decoys set in the little Mioxe Valley about half past nine A.M. This day has been a bright one in my experience, as I have shot more Golden Plover than in any one day before, and also got more at a shot (11) with both barrels. Capt. Wyer was with me in the same stand part of the day. The best thing we did was getting 18 out of 31 with three barrels (the Capt.'s gun being single). A great many birds went over the island without coming down at all. The shooting was splendid, and the reason we were so successful was not owing to the number of birds, but because I called almost every flock up twice and so got four barrels into them. The birds all *landed today;* there was not one on the island yesterday. The wind kept N.E. light all day with a few drops of rain at intervals. Tonight it is raining lightly and I hope to get a good bunch of birds again tomorrow. Geo. Kendall thought of coming down on Monday last. If he had, it would have proved an episode

in his experience. It was rather curious that I did not see but *one* Eskimo Curlew (Dough bird) today, and I did not get a shot at him. I enjoyed myself immensely today.

G. H. M.

56 Golden Plover

N. B. I saw the first Golden Plover (three) this autumn on the 22d August, and on the 26 August I shot one but could not find him; think he was one of the above three seen on the 22d.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 8, 1880

Capt Wyer and I were in the same stand as yesterday, with the same kind of weather. All last night the Greenheads were going on their flight over the town. I never heard anything like it, the numbers I mean. Of course *everybody* was out *early*. I got up at $3\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock A.M. I heard of no one getting anything like the number of birds I did. I came home at $2\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock P.M. as it commenced to rain.

G. H. M.

52 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 9, 1880

Capt. Wyer and I were up in good season, for the rain storm last night promised to have the effect of landing some plover, for we heard them going over the town. We remained in our stands, which were the same as those we have occupied thus far, until $10\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, when it rained and blew so hard that we came home, after a short drive to Trott's Hills, not having seen many birds. It blew very hard all day, first from N.E., after which the wind went around the compass and settled in N. and West, blowing a gale. We reached home before eleven o'clock A.M.

G. H. M.

13 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 10, 1880

We were up as usual, in same old stands, weather squally, and very few birds moving. No new birds landed, and I doubt if any fresh ones have come on since the afternoon of the 7th September, and what there are left of them are getting wild and won't decoy very well. Very few Dough birds have been seen, and not over a dozen shot in all. I judge some five hundred Plover have been shot by all hands this week. Wind N. West.

G. H. M.

11 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 11, 1880

The Capt. and myself thought the chance was so slim that we did not go out until after dinner, when we drove to the eastward and up on Pocomo meadows. We saw one flock of about one hundred Plover, and set on the head (Pocomo) for them, but after waiting two hours and not seeing anything of them we picked up and came home.

G. H. M.

1 Winter Yellowleg
2 Golden Plover
1 Black-breasted Plover

Nantucket, September 13, 1880

Capt. Wyer and I started early and went to the eastward, all around Pocomo and round home back of Mr. Sandford's farms. We only *saw* three Green-heads and never fired our guns. However, we got a lot of fine wild grapes.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 14, 1880

It stormed all this morning, N. East with rain. About two o'clock P.M. it held up, and although I felt sure no new birds had landed, Brad and myself concluded we would ride

out and take a look around. The weather was very cold, windy, and unsettled. Wind N. East. We went up to some burnt ground and found a bunch of birds (about 40) on it. We set coys and remained until four o'clock P.M., with the following result.

1 Upland Plover
14 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 15, 1880

The wind and S.W. and cool this A.M. when Brad and I started after breakfast to set where we were yesterday afternoon. We found the bunch of Green-heads sitting on the burnt ground. They did not come back, however, and we had a pretty dull time of it, for we did not pick up to come home until three and a half o'clock P.M. We saw only a few birds, and most of those that did not start off have been shot. It is now time for the *Pale-breast* to come on, but I doubt if we get much more shooting of this kind this autumn. Still we may. I have not seen half a dozen Dough birds this season, and have not heard of over a dozen being shot in all on the Island. They are very scarce.

G. H. M.

9 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 17, 1880

Capt. Wyer and myself started early. On our way out we saw a bunch of birds on a ploughed lot near Alfred's house, and I shot four of them. We then set the coys and waited an hour and a half without their coming back, so we picked up and drove to further creek, but only saw one large bunch in the air. Then we set coys again for an hour and a half, so the horse could eat and rest. Nothing came. We drove home by way of the burnt ground (of which there is more this year than ever) but saw nothing. When we reached the field we

first set the coys in, we put them out again, and after a long time a small flock came in to the lot. They were very wild, and we only had a long shot, as they passed without paying any attention to the coys. We knocked out three. There are very few birds left.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover
1 Esquimo Curlew

Nantucket, September 18, 1880

I concluded not to go out this A.M., but after dinner Capt. Wyer and myself started out for a burnt piece near Gideon's Valley. We remained here from quarter of two o'clock P.M. until half past five P.M., and only four birds came to my coys, and I shot three of them, and on the way home we picked up a single one. The birds that are left here are very wild and won't coy much, and there are not many of them. We ought to have the flight of the *Pale Bellies* now any day, and weather tonight looks a little like the right sort to land them.

G. H. M.

4 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 25, 1880

Capt. Wyer and I drove out after breakfast all over the western part of the Island. We only *saw* three Green-heads, one of which was wounded and which I shot. The birds have all gone and it is useless to go out shooting, no birds having been shot on the Island for a week.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 27, 1880

The Capt. and myself went to Coskatee this A.M. in the boat. Wind south, good breeze and *warm*. We only saw seven Grass birds, after waiting a long time. We then came

to the boat on our way home, where we saw with the glasses about two miles off some forty or fifty Black Ducks, sitting on the beach where I thought we could get near them. So we started on foot after them. I crawled up three times before I could locate them, and after all I got about fifty yards too much to the windward of them on our last crawl, and we were scarcely within gun shot when they jumped. We gave them two guns each, but only shot down five dead, and by the time we had gone back to our boat the cripples and one of the dead ones had disappeared (one dead one found by another man), so we only bagged four. We *earned them*, with the work we did. I was considerably disappointed, for it was one of those chances one seldom gets. Had I not unfortunately got so near to *windward* of them I should have had the first shot; as they sat on the sand and as they were close together it must have been a *big one*, but we were tired out trying to hit exactly opposite them, and they smelt us on the last crawl. Too bad, too bad.

G. H. M.

4 Black Ducks
6 Pectoral Sandpipers

Nantucket, September 28, 1880

I have nothing worth recording today. As the wind had been and was still south, with a dense fog for twenty-four hours, I did not know but what a few Pale-breast might have landed, although the wind had been to the westward prior to the change to the southward. We drove all over the west part of the shooting ground, as far as the sheep pond, visiting all the burnt ground, but we saw scarcely any birds, and we both have come to the conclusion that it is no use going any more, as we think no more birds will land, and there are none here. It has been promising a storm for several days, but clears off every day also.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Nantucket, October 2, 1880

Capt. Wyer and myself started off at six o'clock A.M. and drove to Eel Point, and visited all the burnt ground, also Ram pasture, but did not *see* a Plover. Day before yesterday we went over same ground except Eel Point and instead we went to Smith's Point, and only saw one Green-head, so I have given up shooting for this season. When we reached the north head of the Hummock pond we saw six ducks. After some time we got a shot into them, and got three. They turned out to be Wood Ducks, a very scarce bird on this Island. We reached home about 12½ o'clock noon. It was one of those beautiful calm October mornings with a frost (white) the night before, which one enjoys so much. It has now been beautiful weather for a very long time, over two weeks.

G. H. M.

3 Wood Ducks

West Island, R. I.
April 13, 1881

As the moon fulls tomorrow, I concluded it was about time for us to start Coot shooting. I consider the season is backward about a week, and we have had only one day of warm weather this spring, while usually we have had a number by this date. No Coot have started on their flight as yet. The 11th and 12th and 13th were cold and stormy, especially the last two dates, and when we reached the Island on the afternoon of the 13th, it was in a northeast rain storm. We set about getting all ready, however. The bad weather continued all night, and the prospect is poor thus far.

West Island, R. I.
April 14, 1881

The wind was N. and N.W., so we did not go out until about 9 o'clock A.M., when the wind died down and it became

warmer weather. We lay first off the Clump. I was the inside boat, and Mr. Gray outside. Very few fowl were moving, and I only saw a few flocks on their flight. We came in at quarter of twelve. The wind has kept north all day, moderate, but overcast. I see no prospect of any change this P.M. We shall probably start off in good season tomorrow morning. I came near getting upset in rowing off this morning.

G. H. M.

1 Gray Gull
1 Red-throated Diver
1 Old Squaw
4 Coot

7

West Island, R. I.
April 15, 1881

The wind hauled to the Northeast, and when I awoke it was blowing and snowing hard. This kind of weather continued most all day. In the afternoon wind came N.W. and west and cleared, but blowing hard and cold. We did not get off the Island today.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1881

Wind West this A.M. early, clear and cool, blowing fresh. A good many fowl flying to the eastward, and we are right as regards the *time* of coming, I think. About half past seven the wind hauled S.W., fresh, but soon died down a little, and I got off for an hour and a half, when it breezed up again and obliged me to come on shore. It was also pretty rough. At 12.30, much to our surprise and delight, Geo. Kendall appeared on the beach with his traps, so now we are all fixed for a good time when the right kind of a day comes. In the after-

noon the wind moderated, so at quarter of six P.M. Mr. Gray and myself concluded to go off a little while. The fowl stopped flying about the time we went off.

G. H. M.

2 Sheldrakes, Red-breasted
2 Old Squaws
10 Coot, Scoters

14

West Island, R. I.
April 17, 1881

Mr. Gray and myself started off for the Clumps about five o'clock A.M. It was moderate, with wind N.W. There were but few fowl flying. After being off a little over an hour, Mr. Gray was seasick and came on shore. I soon followed, as it breezed up. None of us went off again today, as it continued blowing N.W. and did not let up all day. Thus far we have had the worst kind of weather, and I think the cold rough weather makes it rather a late spring. No flight of Coots has as yet taken place; but they are all ready to go, first decent weather. As it turned out, it would have been better to have deferred coming for five or six days. The flight would have taken place while we were here, had we had the right kind of weather, as the time of year is right.

G. H. M.

2 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 18, 1881

Wind northwest again this morning, so we did not go off. It did not blow very hard, but there seemed to be no fowl flying, it being pretty cold also. At quarter of 12 it died away calm, and wind soon came S. west. We all went off and remained the rest of the day, coming in to dinner. The weather was delightful. The fowl did not fly very much, but we man-

aged to pick up a few. Late in the P.M. the wind hauled up Northwest, but we rather expect a good day for shooting tomorrow.

G. H. M.

1 Red-throated Diver
8 Coot

9

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1881

Mr. Gray and myself dressed at 3 o'clock A.M. The weather was moderate, about calm, and little air West. We rowed off and set at the high rock. Had hardly done so when it commenced breezing from the north and cold. After waiting until sunrise with no prospect of any change, in fact it continued breezing harder, we concluded to give it up, and we came on shore and went to bed again. About one o'clock P.M. it died away calm, and wind came S. West with a rush. As no fowl moved, we did not go off. The sunset was dubious, and I doubt if we do much tomorrow. The weather is cold and stormy, what I should expect during the *first week* in April. It looks as if we came down about ten days too early. Still the Coots are mated and ready to go north.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 20, 1881

Geo. K. and myself rowed off in a calm this A.M., about quarter past four o'clock. If there was any air, it was N.E. This condition of things continued until one and a half o'clock P.M. when it breezed up Southwest, but even this change seemed to have no effect as far as making the fowl fly. It was as poor a day as we have seen on this trip. After remaining off until a little after 10 o'clock A.M. we gave it up and came on shore. It blew quite fresh this P.M.

G. H. M.

4 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 21, 1881

It was a thick fog early this morning, and quite calm. It breezed up a little about seven o'clock A.M. and after a while the fog lifted. Quite a number of fowl flew. The wind being west by S. and S.W., we did not go off until after breakfast, and came in at half past twelve noon. As we leave tomorrow noon for home, tomorrow is our last morning. The weather looks bad for tomorrow, and I doubt if we get off. I am satisfied that the season is two weeks late, and it has been so cold and stormy that even if the wind was right the fowl would not fly. I never in my experience knew the fowl to delay so long before starting on their flight, as *none* have as yet started. The wind came S.W. fresh, and remained so the rest of the day.

G. H. M.

15 Coot
1 Gray Gull, Herring Gull, young

West Island, R. I.
April 22, 1881

We had the wind N.E. this morning. We had concluded not to go off, as we leave for home this noon, but the fowl flew so well, more fowl going to the eastward than we have seen for the whole time we have been here, that Gray and myself went off. As he kept drifting it hurt me badly as he was not in line, and all the fowl shied my boat, so I gave it up and came in. It was too bad, as it was our best and only chance we have had on this trip. It looks like a storm, and I expect we shall get it before we get home.

G. H. M.

3 Coot

Nantucket, Mass., July 28, 1881

Capt. Wyer and I started to drive to the Creeks after breakfast. After fighting green-head flies and mosquitoes for

some time we were obliged to beat a retreat when we had crossed the Long Pond. On returning we saw a Sheldrake and the Capt. shot him. On the way back a couple of Black Ducks jumped up out of the Big Mioxe Pond. I shot one and hurt the other; only got one, however. I had hoped to see some Jack Curlew, but I doubt if there is more than one small bunch on the Island. Wind S. West, very light, and weather rather warm; some rain yesterday.

G. H. M.

1 Sheldrake
1 Black Duck

Nantucket, August 6, 1881

Capt. Wyer and I took a dory and went over to Cotui Point for some Curlew we heard of being there. After remaining there all day we started for home with a strong head wind, and a tough row we had of it. I shot one Curlew and one Summer Yellowleg which was *everything* I saw.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Summer Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 8, 1881

We started for the Creeks after the Curlew again, and got out there just before ten o'clock. The flies and mosquitoes were *fearful*. We saw four Curlew, and finding a shed open we unharnessed the horse and put him in. He could not have stood outside for the flies, etc. We dug a stand and I got into it, and the Capt. went up to Broad Creek. I did not see him again until after four o'clock. He did not see anything. I saw some half dozen Curlew and a good many Yellowlegs, but only had two Curlew come to the coys. It was a hot day. There is quite a flock of these Curlew, say fifty.

G. H. M.

1 Curlew (Jack)
1 Summer Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 9, 1881

We went to the Ram Pasture, leaving our horse at the Coffin house on the hill. (These flies are a great nuisance.) We *only* found three men there ahead of us. We went into a stand and remained until four o'clock P.M. The Curlew are very shy and will not decoy. It is about useless to go after them except for the pleasure of the trip.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew
2 Upland Plover, Bartramian Sandpipers
1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 11, 1881

Capt. Wyer and myself went up to Cotui again after Jack Curlew. It blew hard S.W., and we had another hard row to get back to town. I saw some six or seven Black-breast Plover and four or five Curlew.

G. H. M.

2 Hudsonian Curlew

Nantucket, August 16, 1881

It having been thick, rainy weather for a day or two past, I concluded to go up to Pocomo meadows. We started, Capt. Wyer and myself, after dinner, in a light rain which increased. We did not see anything or shoot a gun. The northeast storm continues.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 17, 1881

I had an idea that although *early*, it was possible for a few Green-head Plover to land, as the weather was thick and rainy, although the wind still remained northeast. There is a great deal of burnt ground west of the Hummock Pond, so I drove west after breakfast. When I reached it I saw nothing, but concluded to set the coys. While I was off hitching the

horse, a bunch of about a dozen came and alighted to the coys. I tried to get near them but failed. I saw several others, and I *think* another bunch of about forty, but am not sure. As it rained about three o'clock P.M. I gave it up and came home. I heard of one Green-head being shot today. These birds must have landed *last night*, the 16th.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 18, 1881

Thick again today, with wind S.W., light; changed to S.E. about noon, with rain, and clearing at intervals. Dug a stand in Little Mioxe Valley on some burnt ground, remained until noon, then picked up and drove west to burnt ground west of Hummock Pond. Found two men there; one had three Green-heads. He had seen about fifteen in all. It rained about this time, and as there was nothing moving, we returned by way of the ponds and Little Mioxe Valley; did not see a bird. I rather think only one small bunch of birds landed. It is *too early*. It continues rather thick today.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 20, 1881

I did not go shooting yesterday. The weather of the 19th was still foggy, and wind N.E. In the afternoon two heavy squalls came up with heavy rain which continued the greater part of it and it was clear and thick during the night of the 19th. About three or four hundred birds (Golden Plover) landed in the afternoon of the 19th, and a few were shot. I went out alone early on the 20th. Wind fresh Northeast, not much fog. I set out in Gideon's Valley on some burnt ground to the east of it, and remained all day, only coming in time for tea.

Geo. H. M.

21 Golden Plover
1 Bartramian Sandpiper (Upland Plover)

Nantucket, August 21, 1881

Capt. Wyer and I got off at 4½ o'clock and went to where I was yesterday. Wind west and clear. We came home at nine o'clock A.M., not having had a bird to coys or firing a gun. Saw some in the air. The shooting is over for this lot of birds, and I shall go to Boston at noon today. The birds that remain are wild and pay no attention to the decoys. At noon today it is quite hot.

Nantucket, August 30, 1881

Capt. Wyer and myself went eastward on a small piece of burnt ground. We started after breakfast and returned for dinner. Only saw one Green-head and shot him. After dinner we drove west, and when near the Mioxe Pond we saw a bunch of about forty Green-heads lit. I got out and set a few coys, and the Capt. went around the other side of them. He failed in driving on to them, but when they flew they saw the coys and heard the whistle. Being very shy, they came outside of the coys, not intending to stop. I gave them two guns as they passed and got down six. We remained out there and set decoys, but did not get another shot. It has been a *very* hot day and nearly calm.

7 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 31, 1881

We started out early this A.M. (5 o'clock A.M.) to see if any birds were moving. I set coys just above the Reedy Pond, and the Capt. went on to the ridge east of Gideon's Valley. After remaining until 8½ A.M. without a bird to the coys or seeing much of anything, we picked up and drove to burnt ground to the west of Hummock Pond. Here we found a bunch of fifty Green-heads and some twenty-five Curlew. The latter cleared out and I set coys and Capt. drove up the Green-heads. As they came by the coys I knocked out four only

(a miserable shot) and lost one of them. Although I then got into the wagon and tried to get them to come to coys again, I was unsuccessful, but I shot two Uplands out of the wagon. We came home for dinner. Quite hot again today.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover
2 Upland Plover

Nantucket, September 1, 1881

The Capt. and myself drove out to the burnt ground after breakfast and set the coys. We remained until four o'clock P.M. Only one small bunch of Plover came to the decoys. Altogether it was a *very dry time*. The wind was very fresh S.W. I saw two bunches of Greenheads on their flight today, that contained as many as one hundred and fifty. There are scarcely any Plover on the Island now.

G. H. M.

4 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 2, 1881

Capt. Wyer and I went to same place as yesterday, burnt ground west of Hummock Pond. Quite a number of birds landed last night, some of them Dough birds. We occupied same stands (to the north) as yesterday. The wind was N.E., and thick. The birds came to the coys badly and I did not do well with them. Saw one flock of about fifty Dough birds. Fine prospect of a S.E. storm and rain for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

2 Eskimo Curlew
12 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 3, 1881

The Capt. and I were off at 3½ o'clock A.M. It rained hard, and was so dark we could not drive, so we had to haul up along side of a barn and wait for light. In the mean time

it rained very hard. Wind S.E., very fresh. We drove to Gideon's Valley and set out, but the rain drove us out, and we went up to Mr. Thos. Gibbs's house (leaving the decoys) and remained about two hours and a half, when it held up. We then went out again. We saw a great many birds, but they would not decoy, and we only picked up six or eight. We then changed our location (the birds leading the shore along the beach grass) to the high land S.E. of the Hummock Pond. Soon after we got ready, two other gunners came and dug stands that interfered with us considerably, but they refused to leave, and as it was late we concluded to remain where we were rather than change again. In the afternoon Geo. Kendall appeared from Boston, and remained with us. I never saw more birds on Nantucket, but they were very wild and would pay no attention to the decoys, and this was the universal report of all the gunners, who were out in great numbers. It was a fine day for the birds to land through the forenoon, but after, the wind hauled up to nearly north by east, and fresh. I came in just before six. It did not rain after ten o'clock, and what birds landed came on last night.

G. H. M.

2 Eskimo Curlew
14 Golden Plover
—
16

Nantucket, September 4, 1881

Geo. Kendall went out with me this morning about six o'clock. Wind northeast, moderate. We set out on the grass S.E. of where we were yesterday, as I saw a bunch of about 65 Dough birds that seemed to like the place. I drove up to them, and shot out four when they flew. They were rather too far for No. 7 shot. If I had had any No. 5 or No. 4 shells in I should have made a rousing shot. There were at least sixty-five or seventy of them. At ten o'clock we picked up, and went to Trott's Hills and remained until nearly six P.M. While

It is good weather to land the birds, but up to dark I do not think any *new* birds have come on, and we were out until nearly six o'clock P.M.

G. H. M.

1 Eskimo Curlew
4 Golden Plover
1 Red-headed Woodpecker

P. S. I have not seen a single *Pale-belly* as yet.

Nantucket, July 26, 1882

This is the beginning of my shooting this year. Having heard there were a few Curlew near the Hummock Pond I concluded to give them a try. So I notified Capt. Wyer, and we got off at six o'clock A.M. and went to the Ram pasture. After waiting here until nine o'clock and only having had one little bunch of six come near us, and seeing what we supposed were the large bunch on the high plain S.E. of the Hummock, we picked up and went over there. The birds had, however, all gone S.E., so after remaining until eleven o'clock we came home, the total result being two birds I shot on the Ram pasture.

G. H. M.

2 Hudsonian Curlew (Jacks)

P. S. I think I saw in all today about twenty Curlew.

Nantucket, July 23 (?), 1882

The Capt. and myself started off at six o'clock A.M. after the Curlew again. It was a very thick foggy morning. We went into stands S.E. of the Hummock Pond, where we had last seen them. We came home by noon. I think we ought to have got nearly double the birds we did, for we lost several chances by not being ready; it being thick, they could see us before we did them. I also missed two or three times, and the Captain said he ought to have had two birds. However, they

are *very shy birds*, and it takes considerable skill to secure a bunch of them under favorable circumstances. So I will not complain. Those shot were in good order, and two of them fat. These birds always go *east* after being frightened, and I cannot learn where they go, nor does any one else know.

G. H. M.

5 Hudsonian Curlew (Jacks)
1 Upland Plover

In all, should say I saw some thirty birds.

Nantucket, August 22, 1882

I took a drive yesterday P.M., and at the head of the Hummock Pond saw a bunch of, say, thirty Plover (Golden). They were the first of the season, and must have landed Sunday (20th) night. I went out with Capt. Wyer this afternoon after them. On reaching Gideon's Valley I found five men who had the same object in view, two of them having come out early. In all there were 21 Green-heads shot today, including those I got. Not knowing hardly where to go, I dumped down in a stand between the Valley and the Pond, and the Capt. took another comparatively near. We remained until five o'clock. We have had no weather for birds as yet, but we have more burnt ground than ever this year, and will undoubtedly draw many more birds on this account alone. I got six and the Capt. one this afternoon. Wind S. West.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 25, 1882

The Capt. and myself started after breakfast for Saul's Hills, where there is an enormous tract of burnt ground as black as a crow. On reaching there we saw a bunch of twenty to twenty-five birds. We set decoys and waited about half an hour, when they got up and began dancing around. After

a while they saw the coys, but being too shy to come to them, they went down a valley and came up in the opposite direction. I had just time to tell the Capt. to turn around and where to expect them, when they appeared above the top of the hill. We gave them two guns each, right in their face, and picked up seven. We saw them no more, but six single ones came during our stay, and all remained. At 3 o'clock we picked up and went to Pocomo, but saw nothing. We then returned same way as we went, but did not see another bird except a little bunch of six, which we saw coming out, and which I forgot to mention above. The wind was very fresh to the north today, but died down late in the afternoon. About twelve other Green-heads besides ours shot today.

G. H. M.

13 Golden Plover

August 26, 1882

It was just the turning of a cent whether we went out today, but after breakfast the Capt. came round to see, and I concluded we would go out for an hour or two and return for dinner. We went west of the Hummock Pond, where there were two gunners who had been there since daylight. They had nothing, and had only seen six birds. It was then 10 o'clock. I concluded to go down to the pond and set out on the beach inside. For the first hour and a half we had fair shooting, much to my surprise and gratification, the Capt. and myself being in the stand together. At 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ we had thirteen birds, so we concluded *not* to go home to dinner. We remained until five o'clock P.M. and only got three more. We did not do what we ought to have done with our chances, and I was quite disgusted, and while I would have taken *three* birds when we started, I think we ought to have had over twenty with the chances. The wind was north and some east and pretty fresh. There were only six or eight birds besides ours shot today. I think there are some hundred, not

many more, birds on the Island. As the birds are passing now, any weather that will land them is earnestly hoped for.

1 Jack Curlew
2 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Summer Yellowleg
12 Golden Plover

16

August 30, 1882

The Capt. and myself drove out to the south head of the Hummock Pond after breakfast, and remained until 3½ o'clock P.M. The wind was S.W., light. There are a few Plover on the Island and they are very shy. We only saw one bunch of about twenty. It is of little use to go shooting until we have a change of weather. The birds have been passing for the last week, and I fear a large portion of them have gone by in the clear northeast weather we have had. There is a *very large amount* of burnt ground on the Island this year, but there has not been even *one day* of favorable weather for landing plover. I should add that I have heard of four or five *Pale bellies* being shot the past few days.

G. H. M.

2 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Golden Plover
1 Red-breasted Snipe
6 Peeps

10

September 1, 1882

The Capt. and myself started off for the burnt ground west of the Hummock near the sheep pond. The Capt. concluded to go to the south head of the Hummock Pond. He did not get a single shot all day, and we remained out until about four and a half P.M. It commenced to rain in the afternoon, with wind S.E., and there seemed at last to be a prospect of getting

some decent bird weather. It cleared off, however, before morning, and no birds of any account landed. I consider the larger portion of the flight have passed, and I have given up all hopes of any shooting this year.

G. H. M.

1 Winter Yellowleg
4 Golden Plover

September 2, 1882

We got off at quarter past five o'clock this A.M., having heard of a bunch of plover in Saul's Hills. The extent of burnt ground in this direction is very large. We waited until nearly eight o'clock and only had one little bunch of six come, out of which we got three. Pretty soon I saw the large bunch and ran for my own stand. There were nearly 125 birds in it. They went, that is half of them, first to the Capt. and he got seven of them. Then the same half came to me. They bunched up in a solid mass over the coys only 23 yards off. What could I do with my choke bore? I cut a hole out of the centre, six or seven birds only. I felt badly. It was one of those times I wanted a scattering gun. In my whole experience I never had so good a chance for making a big shot, but they were too near. Had they been 40 to 50 yards I would have made a shot to be remembered. The weather was foggy early, then clear and wind northeast, quite fresh. We shot today by actual count more than all the rest of the gunners put together, and it was a pretty good day for gunners, too.

G. H. M.

I saw four Dough birds today and shot down one but lost him.

22 Golden Plover, adults

September 5, 1882

We started for the place we were at on the 2d, getting up at 4 o'clock A.M. It was very foggy and remained so until noon.

In the P.M. it rained. We neither of us fired a shot today. After our hard luck east we concluded to go west, as we had heard that the birds were landing. I had but little faith in it myself, as we should have seen some of them, I thought, yesterday. However, we could not run the risk of being *left*, so we got up at 4 o'clock A.M. and went to the burnt ground west of the Hummock Pond, near the sheep pond. It was foggy and clear by turns until 10 o'clock, when it cleared with the wind west, the wind having been south the past two days. We did not see any birds today worth mentioning. This afternoon the wind hauled N.E. and it looks like bad weather.

G. H. M.

September 8, 1882

We started after breakfast and drove south as far as Tom Never's Pond and then crossed over to the burnt district by Gibbs Pond, not seeing a bird on the way. We went up in the hills and set the decoys and remained until four and a half o'clock P.M. Only saw some twenty-five wild birds. *One* single one came to the decoys and I shot him. I consider the season over. We have had no bad weather, not even a squall.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

September 9, 1882

Notwithstanding our hard luck the past week, we concluded to try it *west* after breakfast, as it had every appearance of a S.E. storm. We set decoys by the Big Mioxe Pond and saw nothing up to twelve o'clock noon, when a bunch of 25 Plover came to the decoys. After the Capt. and myself fired at them they returned a second time and doubled up nicely and we gave them four more guns. Only four went off. We shot down 21 of them, but lost one. This was the only bunch that came to the decoys all day, so at 4½ P.M. we picked up and came home well satisfied, for birds are *awful* scarce at

present. There was no storm or wind and Sunday (Sept. 10) the wind is N.E. and foggy, but I see no indication of foul weather. I shall go to Boston tomorrow.

G. H. M.

20 Golden Plover

September 11, 1882

It was quite stormy this morning and, although I was going on the noon boat to Boston today, I thought we had better go out for an hour or so, which we did. There were apparently no new birds landed, so at 10½ A.M. we pulled up and came home.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover

September 21, 1882

Capt. Wyer and myself started off after breakfast and drove to the south head of the Hummock Pond, where I got out and set decoys, and the Capt. drove over to the burnt ground to the westward and set there. It was very foggy and did not clear up much until noon. The Capt. saw a few Plover (pale bellies) but had none to the decoys, and with the exception of one plover I did all the shooting. He afterwards came and remained with me. The wind was S.E. until noon, then came west and northwest. In the P.M. I saw a few Plover. One flock I saw had some 30 birds in it, but although they saw the coys they would not come.

G. H. M.

5 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Summer Yellowleg
1 Long-legged Sandpiper (in company with the Yellowlegs)
1 Black-breasted Plover
3 Golden Plover
9 Peeps
7 Sanderlings

27

September 22, 1882

We started off about 6½ A.M. and went to the Ram pasture and remained an hour. Saw nothing, pulled up and drove all over the burnt ground west, and then to Eel Point. Saw nothing. Then back over burnt ground by Hummock Pond over to Miacomet Pond, home, saw nothing. It was the *driest* day of the season. Wind very fresh southeast.

G. H. M.

1 Sora Rail
1 Pectoral Sandpiper

Nantucket, September 26, 1882

We have had N.E. weather with a little rain for a day or two, but I hardly thought it would pay to go out, especially as I had a severe cold. Last night, however, I heard there were some birds landed, so I concluded to go out this morning, with lowering very windy weather, northeast, but no rain. We drove at once to the burnt ground west of the Hummock Pond and set, seeing plenty of birds (pale bellies). After being in my stand about half an hour I made up my mind to change, which I did, and after waiting there an hour I still was dissatisfied. We were doing nothing, and yet we were seeing plenty of birds. They were all pale bellies, and of course wild, and would pay *no attention* to the decoys, so, seeing the birds were working east, I went over to the Capt.'s stand and told him we must take up and go to Gideon's Valley country, which we did. As soon as the first flock or two passed by I knew we were right, and should do as well as anywhere we might locate. The Capt. was in another stand near by. Had the birds *decoyed* we should have killed over a hundred. The shooting was difficult owing to the high wind, and the birds came wide off. Still the shooting came unexpected and, take it all in all, it was an unlooked-for pleasure. The birds landed on Sunday night, Sept. 24.

G. H. M.

49 Golden Plover, all Pale-bellies
1 Winter Yellowleg
5 Pectoral Sandpipers

55

Nantucket, September 27, 1882

The moon came out last night and the weather cleared up somewhat, but as I remained out until five o'clock yesterday P.M. and saw them all go west, I thought we might do some business today, although I did not expect to get half as many as yesterday. But I was hardly prepared for such a general clearing out of everything. We drove as far west as the Long Pond, but saw nothing of any account. The wind was strong northeast, and this P.M. it has cleared. It has blown so hard lately that we have had no boat since the 25th inst. As birds were so scarce we concluded to come home about ten o'clock. I have heard from every corner of the Island, and I am satisfied about every bird went last night. You must take them when they are *here*, for tomorrow they may be gone.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover
1 Winter Yellowleg
1 Black-breasted Plover
3 Pectoral Sandpipers

8

September 30, 1882

It has been storming northeast so hard since I was last out, that I have not been shooting, although I hear that some Plover have landed. In fact no one has been out, as the weather has been *too bad*. This afternoon, however, it held up a little, and Capt. Wyer and I started at 1 o'clock P.M. and drove to Saul's Hills, where we soon saw some birds (pale bellies); in all some 200 to 250 birds. None came to the Capt., and he did not get a shot. They were wild, and with the high

wind went by like lightning. They don't whirl up to the decoys at all, and don't mind them or the call at all. We came back at five o'clock P.M. in the midst of a severe rain squall, but being prepared, we did not get wet. I broke the hammer of my gun today.

G. H. M.

14 Golden Plover

Nantucket, October 2, 1882

I started off alone this morning, about 5 o'clock A.M., and drove by way of the Miacomet Pond to Hummock Pond. I only saw about nine Plover in the air, and one Winter Yellowleg. The last I shot, and as he fell in the Reedy Pond I had to take off my pants to get him. The water was cool. The wind was north. I about gave it up, but concluded to take a look at the burnt ground west of Hummock Pond. Here I saw a bunch of sixty pale bellies. I got out and dug the stand where I wanted it. They came back. The best chance I have had for a good shot all summer, with one exception. The cartridge *missed* (an old one loaded over) and I only got two with the other barrel. I waited a while longer, but nothing came, so I picked up and came home to dinner, after which I drove to Gibbs Pond. Here I found all the gunners, and some birds. I dug a stand, and got ten pale bellies. I did not understand so many gunners being out in this locality, but soon learned some four hundred pale bellies had landed last night or yesterday P.M. I had driven over this ground yesterday *morning* and only saw one little bunch. Two of the gunners shot 50 together, when their ammunition gave out. Another shot 21, and another pair of men got 53 together, and another 11. I felt as if I had rather missed it and had been left out in the cold this time. I went *west* because I knew of no birds *east*. The wind holds north, and clear.

1 Winter Yellowleg
13 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

14

October 3, 1882

Capt. Wyer and I started off at 5 o'clock A.M. and drove east, saw scarcely any birds, and at 8½ picked up and drove west to Hummock Pond. Saw no birds. Wind northwest and quite cold. We got home at noon. This is my last day's shooting for the season. I never saw so many pale bellies, or knew of any landing so late in the season.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Grand Total

194 Plover, etc., etc.
8 Curlew

202

P. S. Have only heard of about 25 Dough birds all summer. I did not get one.

Nantucket, August 29, 1883

On the night of the 25th and morning of the 26th it rained and blew very hard from the northeast, we having had northerly and N.W. winds before; this storm was local as far as New England. New Jersey and New Brunswick also had severe storms, but in between nothing severe was noticed. On the night of the 25th and next day the Plover landed in considerable numbers here, fully half of the bunches being composed of Eskimo Curlew. The condition of the ground was poorer than I have known it for some years, being very much grown up with weeds and grasses, owing to the wet summer we have had here. This fact prevented the gunners from burning ground for the Plover, as it was impossible to make it burn. As a result, although I was out shooting on the morning of the 29th, no birds remained, and I did not have a single Green-head to the decoys, and only saw some dozen or fifteen altogether during the forenoon, the wind

during the entire time, and also August 30, being northeast, without rain. Although there were some 30 gunners out, only comparatively few birds were shot, as the most of them claimed the birds would not wheel up to the decoys, but only darted at or by them wide apart, rendering it difficult to get more than a very few at a shot. This is the *first flight* of the season. The *first* bunch arrived about the middle of the month of August (16th) and located in the "Austin Lot," where they have continued to "reside" ever since. I set out on the Ram pasture today, and remained until noon. Then drove through Trott's Hills, by way of the water tank, home, seeing no birds on the way. I did not have one Green-head come to me today. Two Dough birds came and I shot them. I drove *east* in the afternoon but saw no birds. It looks as if they had about all gone, and if one expects to get any shooting at these birds, one must be on hand *here in Nantucket when* the birds *land*, not after.

G. H. M.

2 Eskimo Curlew

Nantucket, October 1, 1883

Last night it rained quite hard, with considerable wind, which was northeast. I got up at 5 o'clock A.M. and with Capt. Wyer drove out west, thinking some Plover had landed. We drove to the Long Pond on the west, and after the horse had eaten and rested we drove east to Pocomo meadows. Not a single Plover had come on, and with the exception of a small bunch which has been here (and into which we shot and got down six), we did not see anything. I also went over the English Snipe ground, but *they* have not yet come. As a result of this season up to date, it has been the poorest I have ever known on Nantucket. I attribute it to the fact that we have had no weather suitable to land birds, there being but little burnt ground. The season here being wet, the grass was so green it would not burn, and it

stood so high that most of the plover ground was *grown up* and ruined, certainly for this year, if not longer. I see plainly that in the future the only hope of making the birds remain here is to have large tracts in various parts of the Island *burned* for them. The increasing demand for them as a delicacy brings out the native talent in strong force every storm, and as a result the birds are at once driven off; as for example this summer when the birds landed, although raining and blowing hard, everyone was out, and *next day* scarcely a *bird* was to be *seen*. I have not found it convenient to do any shooting this summer, and as it has turned out, lost but little sport. The season has been a failure, and three or four hundred birds would probably cover *all* the birds shot for the entire season up to this date. I leave for Boston October 3d.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover
3 Pectoral Sandpipers
1 Sora Rail
4 Blackbirds

Nantucket, October 2, 1883

The wind was S. East this morning and looked like storming. About noon it commenced in earnest, severe squalls of wind with heavy rain. The Capt. and myself thought if any birds were passing they must land, so we bundled up and started out to see. We drove as far west as the Hummock Pond without seeing a bird except the "Austin lot bunch," into which the Capt. got a shot (drove on them) and killed five. I did not get a shot. It rained *very hard* and we were about wet through. We came to the conclusion that not a single Plover had come on the Island. Late in the P.M. (evening) the wind came North and it cleared up. There was no boat came today, owing to the bad weather, which delays our going home until the morning of the 4th.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover

West Island, R. I.
April 11, 1884

The first ten days of this month were stormy, with much rain and stormy weather and some snow. Wind northerly and northwest most of the time. I left this A.M. with S. Chase and Mr. Burbank, with wind N. and E. It was mild and warm and at noon the wind came S.W. and in about an hour we had a shower for an hour or so. We reached the Island about 1 o'clock P.M. and after getting things ready we went off a little while. Quite a number of fowl were moving, but by the time we went off at 4½ o'clock P.M. they had mostly stopped flying. I did not get a shot. The other boys fired once or twice but got nothing. There is every prospect of a good shooting day tomorrow, although it is raining this evening. I do not think we are too early; it looks in fact as if we were just right. However, we shall be able to tell better in a day or so. It seems good to be back on the Island again.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 12, 1884

We dressed at 4.30 P.M. It was almost calm, the little air being from the N.W. We set off the Clump. It was a little cold early. The fowl flew well from the westward and had we shot as well as we ought, might have brought in double what we did. I shot very poorly myself. At 9.30 we came ashore to breakfast, at which hour the wind came S.W. As it continued to increase we did not go off again today, it becoming very rough. Very few fowl moved when the wind changed, or even after it. The weather this morning was fine, and it was pleasant, dry, and comfortable off in the boat.

G. H. M.

1 Eider Duck (G. H. M.) *S. dresseri*
19 Coot
—
20

West Island, R. I.
April 13, 1884

The wind came Southwest yesterday noon and it was so rough we did not go off. It would have been of little use, as scarcely anything flew. There was no change in the wind until about 3 o'clock in the night, when it changed to N.W. very light, and so remained until about 2 o'clock in the P.M., when it came S.W., and about five o'clock P.M. it settled at S. and nearly a calm. Not nearly so many fowl flew as yesterday, still there were enough to make it pleasant shooting. The day was calm and beautiful and rather warm. We came in about 10 o'clock A.M. and did not go out again, as nothing moved, but we rowed around and visited all the islands, and enjoyed ourselves very much. I am almost inclined to think it is rather *early* in the season for any large flight of Coots, but not much if the right sort of weather prevailed.

G. H. M.

1 Red-throated Diver
2 Long-tailed Ducks
8 Coot

—

11

West Island, R. I.
April 14, 1884

We were off in good season. It was perfectly calm. The vane said the wind was S.W. It was a perfect day for Coot to fly, but they did not. I am satisfied it is too early in the season, as all previous weather has been cold and stormy. About ten o'clock it breezed up S.W. and we came on shore intending to go off again if the fowl moved; but nothing flew, so we remained on shore and loafed around. It was the poorest day's shooting of the entire trip.

G. H. M.

2 Eider Ducks (G. H. M.) *S. dresseri*
5 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 15, 1884

We got up at quarter of four A.M. It was almost calm, the little air being from the S.E. The sun rose with indications of bad weather. As we go home today we only shot until nine o'clock A.M. It continued breezing and we could not have remained out in any event more than half an hour longer, and when we came in it was pretty rough. The fowl flew well from the westward. I made one of the longest shots I ever made in my life today, killing a brant with T shot. At eleven o'clock A.M. it commenced to rain and continued all the rest of the day, so we had rather a disagreeable ride up to Tiverton. We have enjoyed this trip very much and hope to come again, but a week or ten days later would be better time to come.

G. H. M.

20 Coot
1 Brant
—
21

Nantucket, Mass., July 21, 1884

Sydney Chase and I drove out this afternoon to look around. We went west as far as Great Neck. The wind was very fresh from the west, so we had no trouble from flies, etc. We saw a few Upland Plover, two or three small Yellowlegs, one Brownback. We also saw a flock of about thirty Jack Curlew in the distance near Broad Creek. They split, about seven of them going east and the rest west. On the way home I saw three Jacks on the high ground near the Hummock Pond. Sydney shot a few birds, but I did not do any shooting.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
1 Upland Plover
3 Ring Necks

Nantucket, July 22, 1884

Went out in the afternoon after the Jack Curlew, but could not get them to decoy.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew

Nantucket, August 25, 1884

Sydney Chase and I started out this A.M. at five o'clock; wind about North and very little air moving. We drove west as far as Smith's Point and did not get home until six P.M. Saw no Golden Plover. John Winslow shot a single one on July 28[1] which is the earliest date I have ever known one of these birds to appear. He was very thin and poor but was not apparently crippled. He was all alone. The weather looks like changing and coming to the east. If so we should get some Green-heads; none have as yet been shot, and up to this date I have heard of no reliable account of any being seen. I thought I saw two or three small bunches today and on my way home I saw two which a man had shot.

G. H. M.

2 Red-breasted Sandpipers
1 Great Marbled Godwit
1 Brown-back Dowich
6 Black-breasted Plover
20 Peeps
—
30

Nantucket, August 26, 1884

Sydney and myself were off in good season this morning, for it promised to be a good Plover day. The wind was S. East and it promised rain and wind, and we hoped the Green-heads would land, but we were disappointed. It kept raining and blowing in a rather mild manner all day, and although

[1] I think he must have come on migration with some Hudsonian Curlew which are here.

we were out all day we saw no birds in the air. In driving out we drove on to a little bunch of 14 and shot eight of them, the first of the season. We were located near the Reedy (G. H. M.) and Big Mioxe (Sydney). Tonight it looks like clearing away, but we shall try it again in the morning.

8 Golden Plover — G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 27, 1884

Chase and myself went out to the same place and stands as yesterday, with wind the same way. All the gunners were out, as it was anticipated the Plover would land the night before, but not a bird came on in my opinion. I saw in all about sixteen Green-heads and had four to the decoys. I came home at 2 o'clock P.M. It was quite foggy.

3 Golden Plover
1 Winter Yellowleg — G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 28, 1884

The same weather prevailed today, wind same way, no birds landing, and I did not see a Green-head. Was on the Ram pasture but came home at three o'clock P.M.

1 Upland Plover
1 Summer Yellowleg
3 Winter Yellowlegs — G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 29, 1884

Chase and myself were up early and drove over all the shooting ground as far west as the Creeks and home by Hummock Pond and Trott's Hills; did not see anything. The wind still hangs to the S. and E. and thick; part of the time it also has looked like a storm every day for three or four days. No birds yet.

G. H. M.

1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 31, 1884

We heard last night that a number of birds had been seen passing the Island late yesterday P.M., so we were out at daylight with wind S. and very foggy. We drove over all the ground without seeing a bird, as far as the Hummock Pond. So we returned home and reached there at 6½ o'clock A.M. During the day it rained and was clear and foggy at times. In the P.M. I drove east by Gibbs Pond where there is some burnt ground and saw five green-heads. Tonight the wind is South by West and very foggy. I can only account for the absence of the birds' landing from the fact that we have had no northerly or northeasterly winds for some time previous to the present thick weather, and as a result it is barely possible they may not yet have started on their flight. Still the wind may have been favorable where they are. Flight of birds went by Cape Cod today, where the wind was S.E. light and clear, but although great numbers were seen, none to speak of landed anywhere, and no birds were shot there or on Nantucket.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 1, 1884

Sydney Chase having seen a bunch of Plover yesterday P.M., we started out early this A.M. (4 o'clock). We drove from the Miacomet Pond to the Ram pasture, where we remained until nine o'clock A.M. without a bird to the decoys, and we only saw five or six Green-heads. The wind was N. West and looks like pleasant now for several days. The birds are I think passing. A few were shot yesterday, including several Doe birds. This evening the wind is west and clear. Chase drove out in the P.M. and shot one Green-head.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

N. B. The *flight* passed on Aug. 31st and was reported from Cape Cod, Scituate and here. No birds to speak of

were shot or landed anywhere. The wind was S.E. and the birds were mostly seen passing in the afternoon; in the morning here it was very foggy.

Nantucket, September 8, 1884

The weather has been of the finest kind the past week and no plover have landed. I came down from Boston on the 6th and it has continued pleasant since. I went out this morning and drove west as far as the Hummock Pond. Saw two bunches of Golden Plover and had them to the decoys with Capt. Wyer's aid, he driving them up to me. They were wild birds and I could not get them together, and I was quite "broken up" with the very few I obtained. I shot five out of the first and only one out of the second and they came inside of 25 yards of me but were so spread out I could accomplish nothing and I waited for a better show and waited too long. We then drove east to the burnt ground and saw two or three small bunches but they would not decoy, although they saw them and heard the "call." We came home at 4 o'clock P.M. Wind S.W. *fresh* and foggy in the afternoon. It cleared late in the P.M. Not much show for shooting tomorrow.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover
1 Pectoral Sandpiper

Nantucket, September 12, 1884

Seth Ackley and myself drove out west as far as the Hummock Pond this P.M. We saw several small bunches of Greenheads. We had no opportunity of doing anything. The wind was northwest, light.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 13, 1884

Seth and myself started out at 5½ o'clock A.M. and drove west and set decoys in Gideon's Valley, where we re-

mained all day until 5 o'clock P.M. I had only one shot, firing into a bunch of some twenty Plover which came in to the decoys. Seth fired at a single bird and this was the whole story. We saw one other bunch of fourteen. I have now given up all hope of any birds this year except perhaps a few pale-breast. Wind North and N.W. and W.

G. H. M.

4 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 27, 1884

I came down last evening, and this afternoon I drove eastward with Capt. Wyer as far as Pocomo Meadows. We found a small bunch of Golden Plover on a piece of burned ground on the Gibbs Pond road. We started them and I set the decoys. They soon came back and I shot six of them. They also went by the Capt. a couple of times and he shot out four, but was only able to find one of them. These were the only birds we saw. Wind Southeast in the P.M., light, and Northeast in the A.M., light.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover

P. S. I looked over some Snipe ground this P.M. but saw no signs of birds. There was not a bird on Pocomo and it never was any use to go up there.

Nantucket, September 29, 1884

Capt. Wyer and I drove east this morning to a piece of burnt ground on the S'conset third mile post and started at quarter of six A.M. Here we found about 20 Plover. I set the decoys and the Capt. started them up. They came by a couple of times, wide off, and I shot down six but lost two of them. At eleven we picked up and came home. I think there are only one or two small bunches of Green-heads on the

Island now. It was a fine bright day and good breeze South-west.

G. H. M.

4 Golden Plover

Total for 1884 season: 53 birds.

Nantucket, August 16, 1885

This is the first time I have had a gun in my hands for a year. Sidney Chase and myself started off at six and a quarter o'clock and drove via the Reedy Pond to Gideon's Valley. Here we saw a bunch of about two dozen Curlew (Jacks), so we concluded to set for them. We remained out until three and a half o'clock P.M. I saw two Winter Yellowlegs and a Semipalmated Snipe. There were a number of *fires* started today by the sportsmen, who are preparing for a reception of the Golden Plover. Those at the west were burning when we came in and a large one east was going last evening. The wind was N.E. and the day fine.

G. H. M.

3 Hudsonian Curlew (Jack)
2 Bartramian Sandpiper (Upland Plover)

5

Nantucket, August 23, 1885

I came down yesterday P.M. to remain until after the Plover flight. Sidney Chase and myself started out at half past five this morning to look the ground well over. We first drove east to the tract between Gibbs Pond and Joe Folger's large lot. Here were three or four large patches of burnt ground. We then turned south and crossed the S'conset road above Wm. Worth's farm. Here we found a tremendous tract of burnt country, some of it poor, however, being among scrub oaks, but there is enough that is good and I am very sanguine that the Plover will be found to appreciate it and I look for more birds than usual on account of the extent of burnt

ground this year. There is but little burnt to the west, one good-sized piece between the Reedy and Mioxe ponds, which with the exception of some not very good near Alfred Starbuck's comprises all there is west. After taking in the southeast quarter, where we shot four Green-heads and a Jack, having seen two little bunches of about seven or eight each, we continued west as far as the Hummock Pond and saw a flock of nine Green-heads in the air, and they looked as if they had just come on. On our way back we either saw the same flock again or another of about the same number (nine). They lit at the head of the Reedy Pond and I drove Sidney up and he shot three of them. This was all, and as it looked as if we might as well go home, we pointed that way and arrived at 11 o'clock A.M. I heard of two Golden Plover being shot Aug. 17th. These were the first of the season. I feel if any birds land there will be more likelihood of their remaining, as the burnt district is very large and favorable for them this season. Early the wind was S.W., but kept hauling until it reached S.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew
8 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 24, 1885

Chase and myself started off at quarter past five o'clock A.M. and drove to the burnt ground between the Reedy and Mioxe Ponds. When we reached there a bunch of eight flew up, which with the exception of a few of the old Jacks were the only Plover we saw for the day. I have seen a number of gunners today; none of them having seen or shot anything, there are no birds on the Island. The weather this P.M. looks threatening and we should have a good night for Plover to land. A thunder storm is coming up in the N. It has been pretty hot today, wind S.W.

G. H. M.

2 Summer Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 25, 1885

It rained hard during the night, with wind S.W.; no wind to speak of. I arose at four. At five it rained and wind came N.E., at which point it remained all day, sometimes going to East for a while. Although there has not been very much wind, there has been a good breeze at times; at times it would shut in thick and rain, and then almost clear for awhile, only to shut in and rain again. And this is a description of the whole day. Chase and myself were in the Madequecham Valley in the centre of the great burnt district about six o'clock A.M., and we remained until three and a quarter P.M. We only *saw* five Plover in all during the whole day, and I confess I was a good deal surprised that no birds landed on the Island last night or even today. The night promises to be the same kind of weather as the day has been. I think there are no birds passing or they would have landed. We go again tomorrow.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 26, 1885

It rained quite hard last night, with wind N. East, but it did not blow very heavy, and it seemed as if something must have landed. We started out at 5 o'clock A.M. for the burnt ground east, then seeing nothing drove to Pocomo Meadows where we saw about fifteen Winter Yellowlegs, but could not get near enough to shoot one. The wind hauled to the North and it was quite cold. We set decoys at Pocomo for a while so that the horse could rest, but nothing came. We thought we saw three flocks of Golden Plover on their flight. Not a bird landed east at any rate, and I don't think any birds stopped on the Island. We saw a flock of about 25 Black Ducks, and another of five. I heard they shot some Plover on Cape Cod on 23d August. It cleared off about one o'clock P.M., but there is a prospect of Southeast wind for tomorrow.

2 Pectoral Sandpipers

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 1, 1885

It was just the turn of a cent that we went out this morning. We started, however, at the usual hour, with wind light S.W. or nearly a calm. A very thick fog hung all around the Island, as well as on the land. We started to go east to some burnt ground, but fog was so thick that we got lost for a while and could not find it. We went to the burnt district in the Madequecham Valley, but saw only a single bird. We then drove west as far as the Hummock Pond, seeing only one small bunch. We then returned to the burnt ground between the Reedy and Mioxe ponds and set out the decoys, both getting into one stand, as we hardly thought it worth while to set both sets. By half past nine the fog lifted and we had the sun out hot with gentle breeze S.W. The fog bank still hung all around the Island outside, and seemed very dense. Pretty soon after it lighted up, we saw a few small bunches and pairs of Plover moving, and later on several bunches of fifteen or twenty and one of about forty, more or less of which came to the decoys. I think the birds landed about eleven o'clock A.M. and we saw some two hundred birds in all. I don't know how many were seen east, probably shall know tomorrow. After I saw the birds were coming on, I went off (G. H. M.) into another stand, leaving Chase in the one we first went into which was the best. At four o'clock P.M. it shut in thick again with wind S. a little East at times. Tonight it is clear starlight overhead with a little breeze S.E. There does not seem to be much fog over the town. We were both much pleased at the result of today's shooting, as we had no hopes of doing anything. We anticipate good shooting tomorrow and shall start well prepared, and early.

31 Golden Plover — G. H. M.

P. S. We have shot some half dozen *Pale Bellies* thus far, but seen no Eskimo Curlew.

Nantucket, September 2, 1885

When I awoke at quarter past three o'clock this morning, I found the wind *N.W.* It was quite a disappointment to me, as I had quite made up my mind that we were to have a good day's shooting. We drove to the stands we were in yesterday and set out. Here we remained until half past seven o'clock A.M. We then took up, as we had only seen two Green-heads, and a bunch of about seventy a great way off. We drove west to see if we could find the latter, but did not see them again. I don't think they have gone off, however. It breezed up towards seven o'clock A.M., and is pretty cold. Most of the other birds, if not quite all, that we saw yesterday, must have left when the change of weather came, as we saw no signs of any this morning anywhere except as stated.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew
2 Bartramian Sandpipers
2 Golden Plover

—

5

Nantucket, September 3, 1885

Chase and I went this morning at the usual hour to the burnt ground between the Reedy and Mioxe ponds, where we remained during the morning. We did not have a bird to the decoys, and only saw one bunch of Plover. The wind was about West, and a most delightful day.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 4, 1885

We started earlier than usual this morning, and drove to the burnt ground east, where we remained until about eight o'clock A.M., getting only two Green-heads. After taking in all the ground in this section, we came home and had lunch and started out again and went west to Smith's Point. The

result of this trip was one Green-head. We saw nothing on this trip. In the morning I saw in all some eighty Plover at a distance. The wind was S.W. fresh.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 5, 1885

We went east to the burnt ground this morning, where we remained until half past eight. As neither Chase nor myself had a bird to the decoys during this time, and having seen only two small bunches, we concluded to come home, which we did via the burnt ground on the Foot Pond road, seeing nothing there however. The wind blew quite hard last night from the S.W. It died down about daylight, remaining West nearly calm the most of the day until the afternoon, when it came east light, but we have had no rain, although it has looked like it any moment all day. We neither of us fired a shot this morning. Tonight the weather looks very dubious.

G. H. M.

P. S. I have not seen an Eskimo Curlew this season, and have only heard of one being shot. I did not see the latter.

P. S. There were eight Eskimo Curlew shot this season in all. They came and were shot after Sept. 10.

Nantucket, September 23, 1885

I came down from Boston on the 19th. On the afternoon and night of the 22d it stormed quite hard, Northeast, with torrents of rain in the night. It died out calm about two o'clock in the night. At three and a quarter it was clear with a little air northwest. Capt. Wyer and myself drove all over the eastern burnt ground and did not see a bird. We then went west as far as the Hummock, over the beach of which the sea was breaking. We saw perhaps some twenty-five Green-head Plover in all. I had one shot from the wagon.

The Capt. did not fire. We came home at ten o'clock A.M. I shall not shoot again while here, as I take my family home on the 25th.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover

Total for season of 1885: 72 birds.

West Island, R. I.
April 13, 1886

Mr. Chase, Mr. Kendall, and myself arrived here today, had dinner, and Chase and Mackay went off the Clump. The wind was very light S.W. and a thick fog. We had only a few shots. The season is about ten days in advance and we considered it not too early to come after Coot. The first half of March was *very cold* and stormy. The latter part was mild and spring-like with southerly winds. Alex says no flight of fowl to the eastward has as yet taken place, and he noticed no fowl about until the 8th of this month, when he noticed some flight fowl going along, and on the 11th and 12th quite a number flew to the eastward, it being moderate and the wind to the S. and S.W. It has been very foggy all day today and as I write this evening it is calm and still very thick. I am in hopes that we are here at the right time this year.

G. H. M.

3 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 14, 1886

Chase and Mackay went off this morning and anchored off the Clump. There was scarcely any air moving, and that little N.W. It worked around to the eastward, gentle breeze, about noon. What shooting we had early was from the eastward. In the P.M. they came from the westward. Kendall went off in the afternoon. The weather has been warm and with the right weather the fowl should fly well. Quite a number of

Loons flew in the P.M. and Geo. Kendall paid his respects by saluting them as they passed. The outlook is good for to-morrow, as is also the time and season.

G. H. M.

3 Red-throated Divers
2 Long-tailed Ducks
7 Coots
—
12

West Island, R. I.
April 15, 1886

Chase and Mackay off the Clump this morning. When we got up it was clear, but when we had dressed it was a dense fog. I never saw it thicker. It was about calm, the little air being S.W. We anchored close in under the Clump and G. H. M. was only a gunshot to the west of the breaker. We had to keep our guns in hand, as we could not see the fowl until close at hand. At nine o'clock it cleared up, the wind remaining S.W. the rest of the day. But we could see the fog bank still in the S.W. It soon blew back over us again and remained more or less thick the rest of the day. The prospect is good for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

2 Long-tailed Ducks
1 Horned Grebe
1 Purple Sandpiper
12 Coots
—
16

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1886

We all three went off the Clump at daylight this morning. The wind early was N.E. and hauled to E. by South and backed to East again and remained there about all day. We came on shore at quarter of nine as there were no fowl flying; in fact it was the poorest morning we have had. It was pretty chilly. We had scarcely any shots and did not go out again

today. We were constantly on the lookout but not a half dozen small flocks were seen passing the entire day. Early in the morning it was overcast but afterwards cleared and the sun came out. Tonight the sun set in a cloud and the weather looks dubious for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

4 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 17, 1886

Mr. Chase and myself were rowing out to the Clump as the sun appeared out of the water. There was but little wind, N.E., almost a calm. There was considerable old sea rolling in and there must have been a storm at sea. There were scarcely any fowl moving and we only had half a dozen shots each up to the time we came in, about nine o'clock A.M. The wind got round to the north and afterwards came to the S.W. about noon, and remained there the rest of the day, but it was nearly calm all day, and although we were on shore we enjoyed ourselves very much. No fowl moved all day and we saw fewer birds than on any day we have been here. It was also foggy early in the morning.

G. H. M.

2 Coots

West Island, R. I.
April 18, 1886

We all of us went off at the usual time. It was calm and a little air S.W. It soon backed to N.W. very light and soon after came S.W. again, gentle breeze. It was a first rate Coot day but scarcely any fowl moved and I was much surprised. It breezed up later in the day, but went down at sunset. We set off the High Rocks, but came in at 9.30 to breakfast, and as no fowl moved we did not go off again today. We leave for home tomorrow. I am of the opinion that we are too early, as we have had very fine weather but no Coot have been seen

going east and no flight has as yet taken place, and as the weather has been tolerably favorable the only reason I can think of is that it is too early in the season.

G. H. M.

6 Coot
1 Gray Gull

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1886

This is the last day of the trip. We dressed at quarter of four. The weather was just right for Coot to fly, a gentle breeze S.W., almost a calm. We set off the High Rocks, where we remained until a little past eight o'clock A.M., and then came on shore and packed up for home. There were only a few flight fowl going east; I expected to have seen twenty times as many. The day was quite warm, and up to one o'clock P.M. it had not breezed up much. The opinion seems to be that it is too early in the season. I can hardly assent to this, although it may be so, for the season is nearly ten days ahead of what it usually is at this time. As far as the shooting goes, we have shot less this time than on any previous trip, notwithstanding we remained here rather longer than usual.

G. H. M.

5 Coot
1 Long-tailed Duck

Nantucket, Mass., August 22, 1886

Today begins another season. Well, I can only hope it will turn out better than the last two years. Sidney Chase and myself came down from Boston yesterday and we concluded to drive out over the ground and see how things looked. The wind has been easterly and northeasterly for the past few days; today it has blown very hard N.E., and while it did not rain, it was quite thick outside at times. There must also have been some severe weather, for the surf was high on the windward side of the Island. We got started at half past five

o'clock A.M. We drove first to Gideon's Valley, where we saw seven Curlew. I drove them up to Chase, but they came wide he said, so he did not get any. While standing side of the stand, a Green-head came in from sea and flew within thirty yards of us, but in the excitement, this being *the first one of the season*, we did not get him. After looking the ground all over we went eastward and on our way saw six or seven Green-heads in the Little Mioxe Valley. Chase set a few coys and I started to drive to them, which I did, as they were tame. I shot two but lost one. Chase got one. These are the first two Green-heads shot this year. There was no burnt ground that we saw west. We continued on east to the large piece of burnt ground, side of the S'conset road. There we saw three Green-heads and got one. The ground has been burning four days and is still going in one or two places. We thought we saw at a distance a flock of some forty Dough birds going west, but were not sure. However, we concluded to return and go over the ground we had been over in the morning. This we did, picking up two more Plover on the way, but not seeing the Dough birds. We have seen some sixteen or seventeen Green-heads today, which seems early for them.

G. H. M.

6 Golden Plover
2 Bartramian Sandpipers

8

Nantucket, August 23, 1886

It did not rain after all last night, but kept moderating until it was calm (about middle of the night), yet it was cloudy and does not look as if it had cleared up as yet. The wind is S.W.; having backed in there it may go to S. and rain. Chase and myself got off at 4½ o'clock A.M. I left him in a stand side of the Mioxe Pond on a little piece of burnt ground. I kept on to Gideon's Valley. We only saw about ten Green-heads and five Summer Yellowlegs. G. H. M. shot one of the latter,

the only shot fired. We reached home at nine o'clock A.M. and I (G. H. M.) am going to Boston at noon to return end of the week for quite a stay.

G. H. M.

1 Summer Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 28, 1886

I went to Boston on the 23d with the prospect of pleasant weather for a few days. On Tuesday night it rained a little, with some wind N.E. On Wednesday morning it was cloudy, not much wind and no rain. I went up to the Weather Bureau on Wednesday morning and found it was pleasant weather all over the country except a local rain off Nantucket and New England coast, not reaching N. York on the south or Maine on the east. I therefore felt quite easy regarding any Plover landing. I returned to Nantucket on Friday P.M. and found they had on Tuesday night a very severe thunder storm with lightning and severe rain and wind. On this night a good many Green-heads landed, more than for a number of years, and it was estimated near two thousand Plover came on and many passed over without stopping, the wind being north-east and blowing very hard. The gunners were out next day (Wednesday) the 25th, in force and a good many birds were shot, Joe Meigs getting 127, the largest number of any one man. He shot them on the large piece of burnt ground east of the town on the S'conset road. The other gunners got all the way up to 30 which was the highest. Some five hundred birds were shipped away. Only two Dough birds were shot, and only a few scattering ones seen, which seems strange at this date, as we look for them on the early flight. I reached the Island Friday the 27th P.M. I was all set in Gideon's Valley at six A.M. Saturday morning, but the birds had all gone. I did not have one to the decoys and only saw seven in the distance. No birds of any account were shot today, only a few odd scattering ones. We have had warm S.W. foggy and muggy weather up to and including the 29th ever

since. I am more convinced than ever that it is the local storms alone that bring the birds on this and surrounding islands, and to make sure of getting the shooting when they do come, one must come as early as the 20th of August, prepared to remain until the middle of September and be out on the ground keeping watch most of the time when there is any possibility of a change of weather. Some birds were shot on Tuckernuck, where there are still some, and in the vicinity of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. I shot a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the 28th, a rather scarce bird in New England. He came to the decoys. It was the only shot I fired today. I shall look for more birds to come on the first favorable weather we have to land them, and hope *this time* to be on hand to get my share of them, as was not the case during this flight.

G. H. M.

1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 30, 1886

My friend Joe Kendall having arrived to make me a visit of a week for the purpose of shooting some Plover, I concluded we had better go to the large burnt piece eastward on the S'conset road. The wind was south, light, and a dense fog. We remained until noon without seeing any birds. It cleared about nine A.M. The wind remained the same. In the afternoon G. H. M. and Pauline drove west as far as the Hummock Pond but saw nothing of any account.

G. H. M.

1 Turnstone
1 Red-breast Sandpiper
8 Sanderlings
2 Peeps

12

Nantucket, August 31, 1886

This morning the wind was same as yesterday, and also foggy, but it cleared about eight o'clock and came quite warm.

We came home in time for dinner, with one Green-head as our only reward. We hear of the birds going over every night lately, but none have landed, as we hear from the sportsmen every evening who have been out in all directions. No birds shot by any one today.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 1, 1886

I was up at three A.M. again today, wind North, light early, S.W. later, and N.E. in the P.M. G. H. M. in Little Mioxe Valley, Joe at the south head of the Reedy Pond; a very dry time all around. Home in time for dinner. In the P.M. we took the cars for S'conset, where we saw a couple of flocks of Green-heads. As this is the only show on the Island we shall start early and go there tomorrow and see if we cannot get some of them. No birds except ours killed today, with exception of two or three. Some birds went over last night, and I saw one good-sized bunch on their flight while at S'conset. In the night we had quite a severe rain, but no birds landed. Saw about 17 birds in all this morning.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover
1 Black-breasted Plover
2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers
1 Winter Yellowleg

—

7

Nantucket, September 3, 1886

We did not go shooting yesterday as Joe K. had a headache. The gunners got a few birds only. Today we drove to S'conset and set the coys in extreme northeast lot from the village towards Sankaty Light. There were no birds in it when we arrived about five thirty A.M., from which time until quarter of twelve noon we never saw a bird. Then nine came in and we shot seven. In an hour fifteen more came in and, although

we both fired both barrels into them, we did not get a bird. I don't quite understand it, unless they were too near. G.H.M. afterwards shot a bird, and as Kendall had a return of his headache, we concluded to take up at three o'clock P.M. and go home. Wind east, *calm* all day.

G. H. M.

8 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 4, 1886

Wind East and N. East, fresh breeze, clear. I was up again at three o'clock A.M. and took Sidney Chase with me, as Kendall's headache was not well enough to risk going, especially as he leaves for New York at 12.30 noon today. I left Chase in the Little Mioxe Valley and I went on to Gideon's Valley. I only *saw* two birds, and shot one. Chase saw some seventeen and had some to the decoys, but only got one. We came home at nine thirty as I wished to see Joe Kendall off. It has been a most unsatisfactory week for shooting and scarcely any birds have been shot.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 5, 1886

Chase and myself started after breakfast and drove west as far as Smith's Point. We did not see any birds. Wind easterly.

G. H. M.

1 Black-breast Plover

Nantucket, September 5–12, 1886

It has been pretty foggy night and mornings during the above dates and no birds have landed. Winds mostly S.E. and S. West, but very calm. Weather looked like rain once or twice, but continued pleasant. I have been out but little on the commons, and when I did go did not see any birds. The old birds have undoubtedly now passed, and no Pale-bellies

have as yet come on, only two having been shot up to date. I go to Boston on the 14th.

G. H. M.

5 Pectoral Sandpipers
6 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 18, 1886

I came down from Boston last night and with Capt. Wyer drove over the commons to the westward. We saw scarcely anything, there being only a few stray birds on the Island.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover
1 Eskimo Curlew
1 Winter Yellowleg

Nantucket, September 26, 1886

I drove out alone this morning, going west over all the ground; strong S.W. breezes.

G. H. M.

6 Golden Plover
1 Black Duck

Nantucket, September 27, 1886

This is my last day's shooting for the season. Capt. Wyer and myself were up early and went east on the burnt ground first. Here we found a bunch of about 30 Pale Bellies and G. H. M. got a double shot into them, killing five. We then drove on to Pocomo and at the English snipe places, but we neither saw nor shot anything to speak of.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover
1 English Snipe, Wilson's
2 Pectoral Sandpipers

Total for the season: 55.

N. B. This is the poorest season but *one* that I have ever had here.

West Island, R. I.
April 15, 1887

The weather has been pretty cool the greater part of the month, with the exception of the 10th and 11th which were very warm. The 2d and 3d we had the severest snow storm of the whole winter. No flight fowl have passed the Island up to date, with the exception of the 10th and 11th when quite a number flew. We, that is S. Chase, Geo. Kendall, and myself, started for the Island this morning and reached the Beach at just one o'clock P.M. After changing our clothes we had dinner and went off the Clump with the wind S.W.; later in the P.M. it came S.E., but quite moderate. Quite a number of fowl moved and we had quite a number of shots but the most of them were wide. This evening there is scarcely any wind.

G. H. M.

6 Coot
1 Red-throated Diver

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1887

About seven P.M. the wind hauled to S.E. and at last East, and it commenced to rain and continued until noon today, at which time the wind got up to the north. Late in the P.M. it was N. by West, fair breeze and cold. We did not go off shooting, although there were considerable many fowl moving. We remained in the house most of the day loafing around. The prospect is poor for tomorrow, still it is difficult to judge, and we shall have to await results.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 17, 1887

I got up a couple of times in the night and found the wind North and cold, so we concluded not to go off. We remained around until about one and a half P.M., when some men came

and said there were quite a large lot of bedded coot off Warren's Point about a mile and three quarters, so we concluded to row down there. On reaching the place we found more or less fowl scattered around. We drove them off and went into line. I saw in a few moments that we were not going to do anything. However, we remained until five P.M. and then came home. On the way down the wind died out and soon came Southwest, a fair breeze. This all died out about six P.M. and wind came North again, very light. I think the prospect is good for tomorrow, and rather expect to have the best day of the trip. Still, doubtful things are always uncertain.

G. H. M.

12 Coot
2 Eider Ducks, American

West Island, R. I.
April 18, 1887

I set the clock for half past three and got up at that hour to find scarcely any wind, but that little N, which was not encouraging. We went off the Clump however, but as it breezed up N.E. we found it pretty cold, so as there were few fowl flying, we came ashore about 8.30 A.M. What few fowl passed were mostly from the eastward. It kept breezing up and growing colder, it began snowing about noon. The clouds were grey and cold looking, and no prospect of clearing. In the evening we had hard rain and hail accompanied with lightning and thunder, wind up to the North and at times N. East, and pretty cold. We left it storming when we went to bed. It cleared towards morning, wind remaining North. The surrounding country is covered with snow, as is also the Island, and it seems like winter. *No* prospect for tomorrow and I did not set the clock.

G. H. M.

5 Coot

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1887

It was bright, cold and clear this morning, with wind very fresh from the North and the ground all around as far as we can see is white with snow. It looks like winter. We were of course unable to go off this morning, so had a late breakfast and loafed around with little to do. I am in hopes we may get off tomorrow morning, as the weather about noon commenced to moderate and the wind to decrease. Just before sunset the wind died out and there are no clouds on the horizon except a very few in the southwest. The prospect is good for a favorable day tomorrow, and we calculate to be off in good season. The vane still points to the north but it is pretty calm. We saw only a few fowl passing today.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 20, 1887

We got up at 3½ o'clock A.M. with light air North. We set off the Clump. There were not a great many fowl flying and those mostly from East to West. We all came in at 9.30 A.M. to breakfast, with eighteen fowl. At quarter of twelve G.H.M. went off the Clump alone. The wind having changed to S.W., scarcely any fowl flew until three P.M., when quite a number flew from the West going East. G. H. M. came in about five and a half P.M. with fifteen. It breezed up quite fresh S.W., and as I write this evening is still fresh S.W. We hope to be able to get off again tomorrow morning.

G. H. M.

4 Long-tailed Ducks
4 Red-throated Divers
1 Red-necked Grebe
23 Coot
—
32

West Island, R. I.
April 21, 1887

Geo. Kendall did not go off this morning; he went to Boston this noon. Chase and myself got up at 3 o'clock A.M. and were off the Clump at light. It was *calm*, the little air being North. Scarcely any fowl flew, and we came in at 8.30 for breakfast with only seven. The wind came West about 11 o'clock, then back to North, then North W., then South West and S.E. in the P.M. A good many flight fowl moved, but as it was such a dead calm they did not make any shooting until the P.M., when it breezed up just a trifle. We went out again about half past one and remained until nearly sunset. I took Neddy out with me (G. H. M.) The fowl coyed very well. We let our coy lines run out the whole length in the direction the fowl were coming from, having the boat a good way back of them. As a result the fowl struck to them much better than if they had been near, and keeping on their course afterwards gave us a shot as they passed. It has been a most beautiful and warm day, almost like summer.

1 Red-throated Diver
1 Long-tailed Duck
28 Coot, Scoters

30

West Island, R. I.
April 22, 1887

We were all set off the Clump at sunrise this morning with a dead calm. The vane pointed North. At about eleven o'clock the wind came S.W., but it was very light and at times calm. A good many flight fowl passed today, but mostly wide out, or high up; therefore did not make good shooting, as it was so calm they saw the boats a long way off. G. H. M. made a very nice long shot today, killing a Sheldrake up in the heavens; also another at a flock of Coot high up, killing four dead with both barrels. We came in to break-

fast at 8.30 and soon after went out again and remained the rest of the day, which has been like summer, just the time to see West Island to advantage. We shot fifteen before breakfast.

G. H. M.

1 King Eider Duck (rare), shot [1] by G. H. M.
1 Sheldrake, Red-breasted
31 Coot, Scoters

—
33

West Island, R. I.
April 23, 1887

We go home this noon, and having shot away all our cartridges yesterday, did not go out this morning. The wind, very light, was S.E., almost calm. There were six boats off, the first time we have seen any one off during our trip. Not many fowl flew and those did not make any decent shooting. The boats all came in about 8.30 A.M. The weather looks like changing and like rain. The *total* fowl shot for the trip this year *one hundred and twenty one*. Two days we were unable to get off owing to stormy weather. I hope we shall all be able to be here again next year.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., August ?, 1887

Capt. Wyer and myself went out shooting this morning for the first time this summer. It was before Golden Plover time, but we thought we might get a shot at some Curlew. I had a bunch of seven or eight come and shot three.

G. H. M.

3 Hudsonian Curlew
2 Bartramian Sandpipers
2 Red-breasted Snipe

[1] Chase shot down the male but lost him, as he was only wounded. Mine was the female.

Nantucket, August ?, 1887

Sidney Chase and myself went west. We only saw one or two small bunches of Plover. Sidney did not get a shot today.

G. H. M.

1 Eskimo Curlew
7 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 25, 1887

I went to Boston on the 22d and the weather was doubtful with wind S.W., fresh, until the P.M. of the 24th when it rained with some thunder and lightning and wind fresh North East. All night of the 24th it rained and stormed with wind N. East. On the morning of the *25*th the Golden Plover commenced to land and came on in considerable numbers. It was a very severe North Easter and rained all day long without letting up. The surf was very high and broke over the beaches and filled up all the ponds. The Little Mioxe Valley was full of water, more than I have ever before seen there. From all accounts the birds would not decoy well and either led along the beach shore or went some way inland as far as Alfred Starbuck's house. No *one* shot over 30 birds. The Plover did not remain on the Island, but were about all gone next day, a dozen being about the average that was shot to a man. The gunners seem to agree that the birds made very poor shooting, coming very wild and scattered to the decoys. As I was not here myself at the time I will not attempt to account for it. About six hundred birds were shot in all, and parties on Tuckernuck and at the extreme west end of the Island did better than those elsewhere.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 12, 1887

We had a pretty stiff South Easter last night with severe rain. Capt. Wyer and myself started early and went east as far as the burnt ground by Gibbs Pond. We came home by

ten o'clock A.M., having only seen eight or ten birds, and I came to Boston. Have seen no Pale Bellies as yet this season.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 18, 1887

I came down from Boston last evening, the weather the past week having been very fine with wind West and North W. I started out alone westward this A.M., with a beautiful clear day, wind West. I saw one or two small bunches of Golden Plover, but although they came within a hundred yards of the decoys they paid no attention to them. I suppose they were birds that were living here and had been chased and shot at times without number. What birds I shot I drove up to and shot at long range.

G. H. M.

1 Eskimo Curlew
3 Golden Plover

P. S. No flight of Pale Bellies as yet, neither have I seen one this year up to date. It begins to look as if they had passed by. If so, we shall have no more shooting this year.

West Island, R. I.
April 14, 1888

On the twelfth I received a letter from Alex, saying he would be unable to take us. This took us all aback, but after consultation we concluded to telegraph Alex, the result of which was that we started next morning and arrived here yesterday at one o'clock P.M. The wind was North West and quite cold. We did not go off this afternoon, as there were absolutely no fowl moving. We had, however, some shots with the rifle. At quarter of four A.M. we got up with a south west wind and went off the High Rock. Here we remained an hour, getting no shooting, only one bird shot by

G. H. M. We found it pretty cold, and I was very much surprised at not seeing more birds. We then rowed up and set off the Clump, where we remained until about eleven A.M., at which time it commenced to rain, and we did not go out again today. The fowl flew well *all day* long. It was a first-class day, and much to our chagrin we did very poorly. First, because we had a boat at each place to turn off all the fowl. The gunner anchored about a quarter of a mile ahead in direction the fowl were coming from kept firing at about every bunch that came along, which spoilt all our shooting. G. H. M. had a long shot into a flock of Brant and knocked out two, but only saved one. In the next place, we never shoot as well, nor row as well, or get about in the boat as well the first day. It rained until quarter of five P.M. and then held up. Wind breezed up a little but moderated in a little while. The water was a little rugged. The prospect is very good for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

1 Brant (G. H. M.)
16 Coots
1 Long-tailed Duck

18

West Island, R. I.
April 15, 1888

When I awoke at quarter of four this A.M. I found it blowing North and cold, so I concluded not to go out. At about ten A.M. it moderated down and we went out. While there had been quite a number of fowl flying to the eastward, they stopped about time we went off. At one P.M. we came in to dinner, at which time it was calm. About two the wind came S.W., but although we went off we saw but few fowl moving. It has been cold all day. The season is backward, and even with a S.W. wind it is very cold. On the 6th of this month they had a warm S.W. day and quite a number of flight fowl flew to the eastward. None had been seen before this date.

We did not do much today. The prospect is very fair for tomorrow.

G. H. M.

6 Coot
1 Red-necked Grebe

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1888

We got up at quarter of four, had breakfast, and went off the Clump. There was but little air moving, and that S.W., a most perfect day for Coot to fly. It rained a little after sunrise. To my great surprise it was the poorest day of the trip. There were absolutely less Coot than yesterday, with the wind N.W. Soon after six o'clock the wind died out and it remained calm the rest of the day, which was warm and pleasant. I am in a great quandary as to why there was no flight and after a long experience I am unable to account for it, as the wind, what there was of it, was S.W. The prospect is fair for tomorrow. We go home tomorrow afternoon and have shot less birds than on any previous trip here.

G. H. M.

2 Long-tailed Ducks
2 Coot

4

West Island, R. I.
April 17, 1888

When the clock went off at quarter of four this morning I found the wind breezing North, and as the other boys did not care to go out, we gave up the idea of any further shooting this trip. We have done very poorly this time although we have had very fair kind of weather. *Twenty-nine* fowl is the total of the trip. The season is backward and cold.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., August 11, 1888

I drove out after breakfast to the Hummock Pond, where the team left me and went home, and did not return until about five o'clock P.M. I set the coys at head of the Pond, where I remained until three P.M., only seeing three or four chicken plover and two Summer Yellowlegs. I afterwards went up and set in Gideon's Valley, where I shot two Jacks. It was a beautiful day. Wind N.E.

G. H. M.

2 Hudsonian Curlew
2 Turnstone
1 Summer Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 12, 1888

Sidney Chase, myself, and five other men dug out the Hummock Pond. We had it running about 12.30, commenced about 8.30. It is a hard job, and we found the horse scoop we took out of the greatest service. The beach was about 50 yards, narrower than usual.

Nantucket, August 19, 1888

I drove out after breakfast to the Miacomet Plain, then west to the Hummock Pond, where I set the decoys for two hours or so, then over the Ram Pasture and home. I saw about 30 of the Jack Curlew but could not get them to the decoys; also two Willet and one Black-breast Plover, which I shot. The wind was West and rather warm. There is a great deal of burnt ground on the Island this year, but little of it is good.

G. H. M.

1 Black-breast Plover

Nantucket, August 22, 1888

Yesterday afternoon the wind came south and it commenced to rain about two o'clock P.M., but there was not very much wind. I drove from the Hummock Pond to the Mia-

comet Pond and then retraced my steps. I only saw four Green-heads, and after remaining out a while I was satisfied no plover had landed. It held up raining for a little while, but at 8 o'clock P.M. it commenced to blow hard S. & E. and rain. About 10 P.M. the wind came S.W., a gale, and blew until 9 A.M. this morning. I was all set with Capt. Wyer in Gideon's Valley at seven o'clock. On arriving I saw three men who were going home, they having been there since daylight without seeing a Plover. I remained until eleven, when we came home, not having seen anything, and it is clear no Green-heads have landed this time.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 24, 1888

I drove out west after dinner today to see how things looked. It has been blowing west by north the past two days, and also S.W. at times *very fresh*. No Green-heads have as yet been seen, except about one dozen in Matthew Macy lot, where they have been for over ten days. As it was just the day to shoot Grass Plover, I went out of town to windward and came home before the wind. This is the best way to kill these birds, as they invariably rise and fly to windward. I took Pauline with me and the result was, I confess, better than I had anticipated. The weather looks quite settled and I see no indications of bad weather at the moment.

4 Bartramian Sandpipers G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 28, 1888

Last evening we had a little thunder shower, and up to the time I went to bed the Green-heads were passing over the town. The wind had been about south the day before, but not much of it. I naturally indulged in great anticipations

for the morrow. About 10.30 P.M., however, the wind came West, with a little north in it, and it all cleared up. Sidney Chase and myself were on the ground at daylight, although we had lost faith in getting any shooting. A good many other gunners were also out. The day was windy, clear, and pleasant. We saw very few plover. We shot the most of any of them, but it was a sad come-down from our hopes of yesterday.

G. H. M.

13 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 29, 1888

We went off this A.M. about six o'clock and set out in Gideon's Valley, where we were yesterday, with wind West, quite a breeze, and clear. We saw scarcely any birds, although we were out all day. I do not think there are over 200 birds on the Island, and most of those in lots which are preserved. The weather now seems to be quite settled, S.W. and W., and I fear the birds which are now passing (as we hear them going over in the evening) will get by the Island before we get a storm to land them.

G. H. M.

11 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 30, 1888

We were out again today, but saw scarcely any birds, so came home in time for dinner. Wind, S.W., clear, moderate breeze.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 31, 1888

Chase and myself took a little drive out after dinner. We went first to Gideon's Valley, but saw nothing. We continued east until we came to the burnt ground by the south shore. By this time it was half past four. Here we set out a

few decoys, and two birds came to us and lit outside the decoys. I shot one. The wind was Southwest.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 1, 1888

We did not intend to go shooting today. The wind was S.W. and foggy, but there was scarcely any of it. After dinner I saw about 25 birds go over my house, and at four P.M. Chase came and said the birds were landing. They came on about three o'clock P.M., and a good many were seen this P.M. We went out although it was late, and were set in Gideon's Valley at 4½ P.M. We each shot one bird. It was a thick, wet fog. We remained until dark. We however saw scarcely any birds, but I think some fifty birds were shot this afternoon in all. This is the first time I have myself seen any number of birds land in a southwest wind and thick fog, although I have heard of their doing so before. Quite a number of Dough birds landed this afternoon, and a few were shot.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 2, 1888

We were driving out at just 4 o'clock this morning, as we anticipated a good day for shooting, and so did all the rest of the gunners, and we found the stands we wanted occupied when we reached the ground. There were nine men in Gideon's Valley, and they were strung all along to the Miacomet Pond in about the same proportion. We went in stands on the ridge east of Gideon's Valley. The wind was light S.W., then W., then N.W., foggy at times early, but not thick. It rained more or less until seven o'clock, when it cleared off beautifully. We did not see a great many birds. They flew high and would only decoy occasionally. We were much disappointed. As far as I have learned tonight, but very few plover were shot today, although a great many were out after

them. We saw a few Dough birds only. *All* the birds with scarcely an exception came from the east and went west, and only two or three small bunches came back from the west. I cannot decide whether or not they have gone for good, but think a number will remain. We shall go out tomorrow, and hope to pick up a few of the odds and ends. Tonight is calm, clear and starlight. The plover have been passing the Island every night for nearly a week, but scarcely any landed until yesterday afternoon. I hear that a good many birds were seen up harbor and at S'conset yesterday P.M. None seemed to locate between the Hummock and Miacomet ponds.

G. H. M.

19 Golden Plover
2 Eskimo Curlew
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

22

Nantucket, September 3, 1888

We did not get off until six thirty this morning. The weather was clear with a very little air from the southeast. We drove to Gideon's Valley, but did not set out the decoys. From there we went west over the Plains and Trott's Hills and then back to Gideon's, up to which time we had not shot a bird. We set out on some burnt ground back of Bartlett's Farm, where we saw a flock of plover, but as they did not come back we pulled up and went on the ridges at the north end of the Little Mioxe Pond, where we had a few shots. We hear that there were a great many plover moving between S'conset and Quidnet and Pocomo yesterday. We have seen a good many plover today moving around, and one bunch had about one hundred in it.

G. H. M.

10 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 4, 1888

We were off, Chase and myself, in good season this morning. The wind was S.E., almost rain, when we started, and soon

it came down in earnest and continued until 3½ o'clock P.M. We arrived home at quarter of three, not having seen a bird. Chase was in the Little Mioxe Valley and I dug a stand at south head of the pond of the same name. Neither of us fired a gun or saw a bird, and it is pretty conclusive from the accounts of the other gunners that no new birds landed. There are, however, several bunches on the Island.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 5, 1888

We were off early again this A.M. The wind was S.W. and W. Just a little rain early, but cleared about 8 o'clock A.M. with wind S.W. I set out in Gideon's Valley and Sidney C. went on the burnt ground northeast of this Valley. After waiting until noon without getting a shot or seeing anything, we pulled up and took a ride around the lots, thinking we might find a bunch of plover. In one lot we saw two birds, which we shot. I then set out for a couple of hours, but saw nothing, so we took up again and went over to the north shore with a man we met who knew where there were some old Indian graves on the Eastman Johnston property, located on the face of the cliff where the ocean has washed a portion away. We found them and dug out one, but the bones were so decayed that they all went to pieces.

2 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 8, 1888

We, Chase and myself, after our poor luck the past few days, have not gone out, but this morning we started out at seven o'clock and drove to Gideon's Valley up to the Miacomet Pond and as a result secured twelve plover. From here we drove up to the burnt ground at Nobadeer Valley and thence by Gibbs Pond road to Pocomo meadows, then home. We did not get another bird. The wind was very fresh S.E.

Last night it rained. I go to Boston today and my shooting is practically over for this year, although I expect to come down two or three Saturdays more before moving up for the winter. We shot one Pale Belly today.

G. H. M.

12 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 24, 1888

I heard of a bunch of birds living around Gideon's Valley, so Capt. Wyer and myself went out after breakfast and remained about all day. I had them up to me once in the morning and shot out six and a Dough bird. After this we could do nothing with them.

G. H. M.

8 Golden Plover
1 Eskimo Curlew

Nantucket, September 30, 1888

This is the last time I go out this season, as I go to Boston in two or three days with the family. We went out after breakfast to Gideon's and then drove east all over the various pieces of burnt ground as far as Gibbs Pond and Pocomo. We saw hardly anything. I also looked for English Snipe, but saw none. We were gone all day. No flight of Pale-breast have come on this year, and in fact it has been as poor a year as we have had recently, very few birds landing, although on one occasion a great many birds went over the Island. The total of the season I give below. It is better than for several years, still discouragingly small.

1 Eskimo Curlew
1 Winter Yellowleg

93 birds for 1888.

At Somerville, Mass., on March 20th, 1840, and at Revere, Mass., on March 6th, 1880, Mr. Geo. A. Tapley shot an

American Golden Plover, *C. dominicus*, on each date. He also shot one other on one of his shooting trips but is unable to give the place or date. They are *very rare* on the New England coast in the spring.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1889

As I still go shooting occasionally, I have been obliged to begin another note book, the end having been reached in the last one. I cannot open this volume at a better place, where for nineteen years I have passed a few days in April — a place I am much attached to, and where I hope still to be able to come in the future.

George Kendall and myself came down here on the 17th, Mr. Crossman now being here for the season. The wind was North East and it rained about all day. We did not go off the Island but prepared everything for next day. But as the wind was still North East the next day, we were again obliged to remain on shore all day. At about seven o'clock P.M. Sidney Chase arrived, he having come down on the 3.40 P.M. train. This morning (the 19th) the wind was North again, but it looked as if we should have a change of weather. This came at eleven o'clock, up to which time it was calm. There was a gentle South West breeze the rest of the day, but at three o'clock P.M. it came in a very thick fog. Very few fowl moved, and those going eastward. We also saw a number of Brant. We none of us made any good shooting today, but we enjoyed the day very much. Alex Carton, the former keeper of the Island, has left to go on his farm up the road.

G. H. M.

4 Coot
1 Red-throated Diver

West Island, R. I.
April 20, 1889

The wind was light South West all night and clear most of the time with occasionally a little fog, and as I looked out of my window I said to myself, tomorrow we shall see the Coots fly in good shape. It was two o'clock A.M. then, and I had great expectations for the coming day. I called the other boys at quarter of four and we soon had breakfast. There was still the remnant of the fog. The fowl commenced to fly as soon as it was light, and kept it up about all the time until noon. It did not breeze up to make it uncomfortable in the boat. I have not many times seen so many fowl pass here in one day. There were also a great many Brant flying, and take it all in all, I do not hit a day like this in the course of a good many years, coming as I do for only a few days. The Coot mostly flew high and wild, as it was a very moderate day, with light wind. Later when the wind breezed up they made better shooting. I was very much sunburnt today, more so than ever before in my life. The score shows for itself, and any one who knows what it is to kill spring Coot will appreciate it. I have enjoyed every minute of today and from feeling very poorly when I came down, now feel like myself again. Of the score below I killed the Loon and twenty-nine Coot. We came on shore at one o'clock P.M., as it was rough and foggy, and did not go out again today.

G. H. M.

45 Coot, Scoters
1 Great Northern Diver or Loon, 11½ lbs.
1 Long-tailed Duck

West Island, R. I.
April 21, 1889

It remained foggy most of the night with a little air South West. Towards morning it cleared a little. We were all set off the High Rock at 5.10 o'clock A.M., at which time it was

foggy. It did not clear until nearly eight o'clock, when it breezed up S.W. This was another first-rate day for Coot to fly on their migration, and they took advantage of it, judging from the number that passed; for they kept it up nearly all day. Of course this *flight fowl* shooting is most difficult, as they are all adult birds, heavily feathered, and fly well up in the air. The White Wings are the most difficult by all odds to kill, ranking next to the Loon. I heard my No. 4 chilled shot, with $3\frac{3}{4}$ drams of Dupont's sea shooting powder back of it, go up against them time after time, without bringing them down, and it was mostly the shots that hit them in the head and neck that did the business, it failing to penetrate their thick plumage if any distance off; their large size and defined plumage making them appear nearer than they were. The weather was warm and moderate, in fact all that could be desired to make the shooting pleasant and agreeable. I added to the burning I received from the sun yesterday, and my face and eyes are considerably swollen and skin coming off. Chase and Kendall came on shore about eleven o'clock, but I remained off. While they were gone a good many fowl passed. I had the unusual experience of shooting a full-plumaged Wood Duck (drake) out of a flock of surf ducks. How he got mixed up with them I cannot conjecture. I also shot a large common Cormorant, and a duck and drake King Eider; the latter were not in full plumage. Today will, I think, finish the South West weather. We came on shore about four o'clock P.M., as it then breezed up very fresh with thick fog, it also being pretty rough. At eight o'clock P.M. we had a change of wind to West, very fresh. G. H. M. shot 27 today, Chase 6, Kendall 11.

G. H. M.

42 Coot, Scoters
1 Red-throated Diver
2 King Eider Ducks by G. H. M.
1 Wood Duck, drake, full plumage, by G. H. M.
1 Cormorant, common, *P. carbo*, by G. H. M.

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West Island, R. I.
April 22, 1889

The wind being North West this morning and no prospect of fowl flying, we concluded not to go out, which ends the trip for this year, as we returned to Boston this afternoon. We have enjoyed this trip very much and have had better shooting than usual.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., June 16, 1889

I took a drive and when near the Big Mioxe Pond on the upland saw and drove up quite close to a full-sized Bartramian Sandpiper, an old bird.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 4, 1889

Took a drive out west with the children and saw some Hudsonian Curlew, shot one.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew

Nantucket, August 11, 1889

Drove out to Hummock Pond, saw our old friends the Curlew, but shot none. I shot four Black Tern at Pond, two of which were *black*, the other two were young birds, with only dark pearl backs and black spots about the eye.

1 Bartramian Sandpiper
1 Semipalmated Snipe
4 Black Terns

In riding through Pleasant St. this morning, as I was going out of the town I saw a Mocking Bird. I got out of the wagon to shoot him but he dodged around the houses so close that I did not dare to fire at him for fear of the charge going through some window. I was very near him at times, about one dozen yards. He looked like a bird of the year. This

makes the second or third time I have noted them on this Island. He seemed a wild bird, and I believe it from its movements to be one. A friend, Mr. Chase, recently from the South, also saw him. I regretted not being able to shoot him, but he flitted away from the opposite side of a tree so I did not finally see where he went to.

Geo. H. M.

4 Black Tern. These birds had their throats full of grasshoppers, which they obtained on the sand beach and *not* on the upland.

Nantucket, August 25, 1889

On the 20th Seth Ackley shot a Golden Plover at the Hummock Pond, and I have since heard of a bunch of sixteen which have been in one of the lots (Hinckley Farm) for several days. These are the first of the season. On the night of the 23d there was a very severe rain, with much lightning, but little wind, which was baffling from S. West to S.E. A good many Golden Plover passed over the Island during the evening and night. The sportsmen were all out in force next morning in every direction, but *none* of the birds stopped and none landed. As a result but *one* bird was shot, and *this one* was in all probability from the above flock of sixteen. The wind was East and N.E., light, and cloudy. We got a gang of sixteen men together today with two scoops, and horses, to dig out the Hummock Pond, which I left running finely. We are in hopes that by so doing the muddy shores will be exposed for some little time and attract any passing birds. We are down for our vacation of two weeks, having come yesterday. There is not so much burnt ground as usual this year, but there are a number of very fair small pieces between the Miacomet Pond and Hummock Pond. It would seem as if the G. Plover were passing, as one or two flocks were heard going over tonight. It is time for them, and if we should get some stormy weather shortly, some birds ought to land. We

saw four Golden Plover today and a few Hudsonian Curlew. We start out about four tomorrow morning and expect to try the virtue of letting out the Hummock Pond.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 26, 1889

We started off at four A.M., Seth Ackley, Sidney Chase, and myself. As the Hummock was all drained out after our efforts yesterday, we concluded to go and remain there, which we did. We saw no birds, although we remained all day. The wind was very fresh North East, a sort of dry northeaster. The Pond has an opening of 150 feet and a border of flats some 80 yards; still there are no birds as yet?

G. H. M.

2 Summer Yellowlegs
1 Jack Curlew (Hudsonian)

Nantucket, August 27, 1889

Today being very much like yesterday we concluded not to go out until after breakfast, and it was just as well as it turned out. The wind was very fresh East early, afterwards N.E. We drove from the Miacomet Pond to the Hummock, but saw no birds. Then returned, stopped on the way for lunch, and G. H. M. dug a stand for *future* wants. While here saw a bunch of 17 Summers. G. H. M. shot two but lost both. The fires are going very lively on the commons today, and the sportsmen are making it as attractive as possible for the Plover. On the way home we saw our first flock of Golden Plover. There were 18 in the bunch, and they live in the Arnold Morse farm, where *no shooting* is allowed, probably the reason they took up quarters there?

G. H. M.

1 Upland Plover, Bartramian

Nantucket, August 29, 1889

I did not go out yesterday, as there seemed to be little use. Seth and Sidney did, however, and shot one Green-head, one

Winter Yellowleg, seven small Yellowlegs, and seven Pectoral Sandpipers. This morning Sidney and myself went, and Seth did not. The wind was East and it looked like rain. We went all over the ground as far as the Ram Pasture, but saw only two or three birds. The wind at last came S.S.E. and we had a shower, and at two o'clock it came foggy and wind went back N.E., where it has been every day since last Saturday. We set out on the ridge to the east of Gideon's Valley, which is burnt, but did not see a bird, so gave it up about three o'clock P.M. and came home. There is no inducement to go out as there are *no* birds on the Island.

G. H. M.

3 Black Ducks

Nantucket, August 31, 1889

Seth, Chase, and myself went out after breakfast, although I thought it was of little use. We drove as far west as the Hummock Pond. The wind was very light N.E., the same as it has been so long. We went all over the best Plover ground, but did not see a bird. The conditions for a flight are very discouraging and the weather is provokingly clear and pleasant. There are at present no birds on the Island, and when *it is dry* here, it is *very dry*.

G. H. M.

1 Wilson's Phalarope (young)
1 Red-headed Woodpecker (young)
3 Yellowlegs

Nantucket, September 15, 1889

I came down from Boston yesterday. I learned there were no birds on the Island. On the night of the 11th there was considerable rain and fog with wind S.E., and a small number of Dough birds and Golden Plover landed. There were about five-eighths of the former to three-eighths of the latter, among which were some Pale Bellies. There has been for the past five days a circular storm whose northern limit has been New

Jersey and Long Island, where it has been the most severe storm for twenty years. It came up from the West Indies following the Gulf Stream, and went to sea, so we here only had the remnants of the outside edge. No Plover landed during the early stage of the storm, and the few that came on arrived when it was about over. The landing of the Eskimo Curlew at so late a date is particularly interesting. If I am correct, I have no date so late here before. I drove out with Mr. Chase this A.M. at five and a quarter. We went over all the western ground from Miacomet Pond to Sheep Pond, but only saw one bunch of about sixteen and another of four. We also saw a few Black Ducks. It rained last night and was quite thick at times, with wind S.E. Several flocks of Plover went over the town in the evening and the conditions were favorable for birds to land, but none stopped. I shot my first Eskimo Curlew and Golden Plover of this season today, getting five of the latter and one of the former out of a small bunch. I began to fear I should not even get *one*. It has been thick and clear all day with wind very light S.E. and hot.

G. H. M.

7 Golden Plover
1 Eskimo Curlew
3 Pectoral Sandpipers

Nantucket, September 22, 1889

I came down yesterday and learned that on the night of the *18th* they had a severe rain here with the wind S. East, and as soon as it was dark the Plover were heard whistling as they passed over the town, and continued about all night. Towards morning the wind came N. West, fresh. All the gunners in town were out, but no birds were shot, as none had stopped. It was the old story over again, and one cannot but be imbued with the uncertainties of this kind of shooting. From all accounts, a great many Plover passed over on this night. This morning I drove east in the morning, but only

saw three Black Ducks, two of which I shot down, but lost one in the grass, and one Black-breasted Plover. In the P.M. I drove west as far as the Hummock Pond. I saw four Eskimo Curlew and shot one, two Hudsonian Curlew, both of which I shot, but lost one. It was a cold northwest grey day and quite blustering.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
1 Eskimo Curlew
1 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Black-breasted Plover

Nantucket, September 23, 1889

Capt. Wyer and myself drove out at 2 o'clock P.M. to the Ram Pasture, where we found a bunch of about twenty Golden Plover and two or three Eskimo Curlew. As they seemed to have been on this ground for some little time, we concluded to start them and set out and await their return. At five o'clock P.M. we took up, the birds not having put in an appearance, much to my surprise. We saw eight birds pass over, which I took to be Eskimo Curlew, and later six Golden Plover. We did not, however, get a shot at anything. Wind west by north. I saw a young Red-headed Woodpecker today.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 29, 1889

I came down last night for the last time this season, and this morning I had the horse at seven o'clock and drove to Miacomet Plain. Here I shot an Upland, which is very late for them, and I do not remember if I ever killed one at this date before. From here I drove west, but saw nothing until I reached the rise beyond Gideon's Valley, near the Pond. Here I saw two Eskimo Curlew and shot both. I then drove to the Sheep Pond and all over the country thereabouts, but

saw nothing until I reached the Ram Pasture, where I saw seven or eight Plover. I drove within a long shot, as I saw they were wild, and killed three. I then drove through Trott's Hills and looked in the pond, but saw nothing more. Rather cool and clear, wind N. West.

G. H. M.

1 Bartramian Sandpiper
2 Eskimo Curlew
3 Golden Plover (2 Pale-Bellies)

Nantucket, October 2, 1889

We had a very rainy day of it yesterday with wind about south and east, so I thought I would drive out to the west part of the Island and see if any Golden Plover had landed. I saw no new birds, and none came on. Just west of Gideon's Valley I saw a bunch of a dozen Pale-bellies, and soon after two Eskimo Curlew. I did not get a shot at the former, as they were shy and evidently had been here for some time. The Curlew I shot, and they also had been here for some weeks. The wind was strong west.

G. H. M.

2 Eskimo Curlew

Recapitulation of the season of 1889

All through, the summer has been unusually wet, much rain having fallen. It has also been what is called a *cool* summer. There has been a great scarcity of birds on Nantucket, especially Golden Plover. I have never known so poor a season during the fifteen years I have shot on the Island. One feature of this season has been the disinclination on the part of the Golden Plover to remain for even six hours on the Island, although there were three distinct passages of these birds going over the Island at night. Another feature was the landing of the Eskimo Curlew at so late a date as the 11th of September (only in small numbers), and I think those shot since that date are the remnants which have remained, and I

think the total of Plover and Eskimo Curlew shot by all the sportsmen this season will not exceed much the number I have individually shot in my poorest year here, and the accounts from Cape Cod correspond with our experience here, it being a decidedly off year.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 14, 1890

After quite a number of years I again find myself on this Island, where I have come for the purpose of studying and shooting the American Eider Duck. Mr. Sidney Chase and I left Boston yesterday at 8 o'clock A.M. for Nantucket, where we passed the night, having made arrangements to start next morning in a sailboat at 6.30 o'clock A.M., and arrived on the island of Muskeget, after rather a chilly sail, at 9.15 o'clock A.M. We found the small house where we were to stay quite comfortable and furnished with the necessaries, and were greeted on our arrival by Mr. Marcus Dunham, who was to take care of us during our stay. The wind was N.E. light, but came in thick fog just as we arrived. On the way down we saw considerable numbers of Eiders, and some thousand of them are "wonted" around the jetty off Nantucket. As we could do no shooting today, it being too late, I took a walk over a portion of the Island and noted some Shore Larks and Song Sparrows. I saw also a dead Killdeer Plover which was shot on the 28th of February. As it was in fair condition I took off the skin. There was only one Killdeer. There are only about 500 Eiders living inside where they will make any shooting.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 15, 1890

At four o'clock A.M. we arose, and after breakfast, with cloudy S.E. weather, Marcus rowed us over to a shoal which

was S.W. of Adams Island. Here we dug stands and set out the decoys. This shoal and the extreme end of Smith's Point and the jetty off Nantucket are the only places where the Eiders can be obtained. At this time of year they are very beautiful and in full plumage, and it is a delight to look at them. Sidney remained with me until 7.30 o'clock A.M., when, leaving me on the shoal, Marcus rowed him down to Gravelly Island shoal to try for Brant. At this time we had ten Eiders. Sidney did not get any Brant, but I shot ten more Eiders and one Long-tailed Duck which I saved, and lost five more carried off by the tide, which runs very swiftly, before I could wade off and get them. We came back to the house at ten o'clock, as the tide had receded sufficiently to interfere with the shooting. It commenced to rain at 7.30 o'clock A.M. While I was on the shoal some 30 Sanderling Sandpipers came and lit on the beach. In the P.M. we dug out a Brant box, moved it nearly half a mile, and dug in down again on another point, no light undertaking, and we were quite used up after it. Had we dreamed of its being so much work, I am sure we should have left it where it was.

G. H. M.

1 Red-breasted Merganser
1 Long-tailed Duck
1 Scoter (American)
18 Eider (American) Ducks, *S. dresseri*

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Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 16, 1890

As the tide did not fall sufficiently to go after the Brant until ten and a half o'clock, we did nothing until that time. We then went into the box we had placed yesterday afternoon, but not a Brant came within a mile of us, and the only bird that came to us was a full-plumaged drake European Green-wing Teal, which was shot by G. H. M., which Marcus Dunham says is the first he has ever heard of being shot

around here. The wind was N.E. light. Marcus went to Tuckernuck in the P.M. and brought back a small skiff for future use. About sunset we went after Black Ducks in the slough holes near the house. A pair came to Sidney and he shot one. This evening the wind is N.W. and colder and snowing and blowing, and it is doubtful what we shall be able to do tomorrow. The clock is set for 3.30, and we shall decide then. The Brant leave their feeding grounds every night and go out into the Sound to roost.

1 Black Duck
1 *Green-wing Teal of Europe*

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 17, 1890

When we got up at 3.30 A.M., we found it blowing so hard N.W. that it was impossible to go to Smith's Point after the Eiders as we had planned. It was also very cold, and considerable snow on the ground, so after consultation we gave it up. We built a good fire in the stove, which had gone out, and went back to bed again until 6.30 A.M. As the bad weather still continued, we remained in the house until near noon, when Marcus in spite of the wind and weather set the Brant decoys in the Salt Pond, and after bailing out the box we got into it and remained about two hours and a half. Only four Brant came, wide off. In the afternoon Mr. Geo. Coffin of Tuckernuck, who was also on Muskeget, came over and made us a visit. I regret to say I cannot record any ducks shot today.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 18, 1890

We got up at three o'clock, had breakfast, and then walked with our guns, &c, over to Mr. Coffin's house, about a mile. The wind was West by S., and as we were going up to Smith's

Point after Eiders we concluded to do this as his house and boat were just so much to windward and nearer the Point. It was a long hard row of about three miles in the dark. On reaching there we dug stands on the outside beach. We only remained a short time, however, as there were no ducks flying; so we came back to the house again, arriving at seven o'clock. After dinner Sidney went down to Jenkins Point, where Marcus had set the Brant decoys. I did not go, as I had no faith. Sidney shot four Brant, and Marcus one. Just before sunset, G. H. M. went to the shore after Black Ducks, but did not get a shot. Blowing very hard all day.

G. H. M.

5 Brant
1 Great Northern Diver

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 19, 1890

We were up again at 3.30 o'clock this A.M., and went to the shoal near Adams Island, where we were the first day. G. H. M. took a stand at the south end of it, and Sidney the one at the north. G. H. M. tried his 20-bore gun today on the Eiders, but there were few of them flying, so extended results could not be obtained, and while he shot several dead, they were all inside of 30 yards. At longer range he could hear the shot strike the ducks, but it failed to bring them down, and it would seem as if it had insufficient power to penetrate at the longer range. At 8.15 o'clock a driving N.E. snowstorm set in, increasing in severity, and we concluded it best to get back to the house as soon as possible; no easy matter, as we were two miles to leeward, and it took the combined efforts of all three of us to row the large dory to windward against the strong head tide, loaded down as it was with all our things and decoys (60 Brant). We reached the house at last, but it was a tough pull at the oars. It was then 11.30 o'clock and, tired and wet through, we were glad enough

to get there. Very few Eiders moved today. Marcus rowed along the beach and picked up the most of our ducks which had drifted there, so we only lost four. While on the shoal, *three Red-breast Sandpipers* in the autumn plumage came and lit and G. H. M. shot one. According to Mr. Marcus Dunham these three Redbreast have been living in this locality a large share of the winter, he having seen them on February 15, and he told me that Mr. Geo. Coffin of Tuckernuck saw them in the middle of January. I shot also one Sanderling Sandpiper. I have seen some of these birds every day since I have been here, and Marcus D. tells me that some winter here every year, say from 15 to 40 birds. I myself have seen some fifty or more this trip. The ground is covered with considerable snow this evening and it is a pretty severe storm.

G. H. M.

1 Long-tailed Duck
1 Red-breast Sandpiper, very fat
12 Eider Ducks (American)
1 Sanderling Sandpiper

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 20, 1890

The severe N.E. snowstorm continued until about midnight, when the wind changed to N. West with considerable wind, and cleared off. After getting up at 3.30 o'clock, we concluded it would be useless to go anywhere shooting, so we went to bed again. The tide served right to set the Brant decoys in the afternoon off the Point near the house, so we went out and managed to shoot three. In the morning I took a walk over a portion of the Island. I only saw a few Song Sparrows, quite a number of Shore Larks, and a pair of Bonaparte Gulls in the *grey* plumage. Marcus tells me it is unusual to see them in this dress, and that usually those birds which come first have their heads black. Marcus saw one Snow Bunting with some Shore Larks today. The

weather again looks dubious this evening, and promises a S.E. rainstorm.

G. H. M.

3 Brant

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 21, 1890

This turned out to be our last day's shooting but one. We got up at 3.30 o'clock, but as it was a S.E. rainstorm, we went back to bed again. About 8 o'clock A.M. it came in a thick fog. In the afternoon about 1 o'clock we set the Brant decoys off both of the Points, the rain having ceased. Marcus and I went to one and Sidney went to the other. It was still foggy. A good many Brant went along shore, out of shot, and some came within about one hundred yards. Nothing would induce them to decoy, however, and Marcus and I only had one shot at a small bunch, getting four. Sidney got one.

G. H. M.

5 Brant

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 22, 1890

We set the clock at 3.30 o'clock and went to the shoal. It was nearly calm. We were after the Eiders today. The tide was remarkably low and there were flats and shoals in every direction. But few Eiders were moving, and the low tides were against us. At nine-thirty o'clock it commenced to rain, and as the shooting was about over, we came to the house, the wind having breezed up S.E. with hard rain. I saw the remaining two Redbreast again today, and fired and wounded one of them, which, however, I failed to secure, much to my regret. In the evening it was calm and cloudy. We go to Nantucket tomorrow morning.

G. H. M.

2 Long-tailed Ducks
6 Eider Ducks [1]

P. S. I saw what I called a female Mallard Duck, with two Black Ducks flying together today.

[1] One of these was a female *mollissima* Eider. The others were American Eider, *dresserii*.

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 23, 1890

We packed up all our things early, and the boat came for us about eight o'clock A.M. At nine and a quarter we started, with two reefs and a strong N.W. wind, for Nantucket, where we arrived at 10.40, a very quick run, and came to Boston next morning. The objection to Muskeget is that the distances to the shooting ground are considerable, as is also the uncertainty of getting to the Island. Then, but little shooting can be done except on the tides, which only gives some three hours a day. The rest of the day is practically useless. I consider it a very uncertain place to go to, to get shooting, and the trip is rather expensive for what one gets. Then all the stores, eatables, wood, coal, bedding, have to be carried down, making considerable detail and considerable luggage. For Eider Ducks, however, it is the best place to secure them south of Maine, that I know of. In fact, I know of no other where any number can be obtained on the Atlantic coast. Those we shot were remarkably fine specimens and in full plumage.

G. H. M.

N. B. I have remarked fewer wild fowl of all descriptions in making the voyage from Woods Hole to Nantucket and from the latter place to Muskeget than in former years. I can only account for it by a possible change in location of the shell-fish food.

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1890

Mr. William Brewster and I came down on the 8.30 A.M. train. The wind was North West all the morning, but about noon came S.W. fresh. As we saw no fowl flying we did not go off. It was also quite windy, and continued so until the middle of the night. We got up at quarter of four on the

morning of the *17th*. There was not much air moving, and that West, and I had little idea we should do much of anything. About six the wind came S.W. light, then breezed up, then light again, until nine A.M., when it breezed up fresh and continued so the rest of the day. Some flight fowl went eastward, but mostly White Wings. I tried a 10-bore Scott Premier, but the result was only to make me more satisfied with my 12-bore. Mr. B. shot his 20-bore and did better with it than I expected he would. I shall have more to write regarding its performance later on. I lost about as many of the fowl as I saved, and was much inconvenienced by the "hammerless," which I had never before shot, and I lost a number of shots through the "safety" not being pushed up. It was rather choppy also. Altogether I did not show off to much advantage. I lost one of my oars today and did not discover it until it had drifted out of sight. Mr. B. went after and found it. Otherwise I should have been left in a very unpleasant predicament. Of the fowl shot today I secured 10 and Mr. B. 4. The prospect is dubious for tomorrow, as I fear from appearances the weather will be unfavorable.

G. H. M.

2 Long-tailed Ducks
12 Scoters (Coots)
—
14

West Island, R. I.
April 18, 1890

We arose at quarter of four A.M. It was pretty cool, with a light air about North, but in an hour or so it came N.W. and so continued until 2.20 o'clock P.M., when it again changed to S.W. We only remained off the Clump until 7.30 and then came on shore, where we remained the rest of the day. There were absolutely no fowl flying, and I do not often see a duller day in this respect here. The Church fishing men are here two weeks earlier than usual and have been

busy over their fish traps, and I fear may prove a serious obstacle to our shooting if we have a S.W. day and want to anchor off the High Rock. At 7.30 P.M. the wind again changed to North by East, and weather looks rather doubtful for a shooting day tomorrow. We saw through the large glass some dozen Cormorant on the Shag rocks. We passed the day very pleasantly on the High Rock, and in loafing around generally. While on the rock we watched a Great Northern Diver prepare a flounder to swallow. The fish was about five inches in diameter. He picked and bit it for full five minutes, then stretching up his head with his bill in the air pointed upwards, he swallowed it. I could scarcely believe it possible had I not seen it. We also saw a little Brown Creeper which was hopping around on the ground like a sparrow. We did not do much shooting, only shooting three or four times each.

G. H. M.

3 Scoters

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1890

I got up twice in the night to see how the weather was, and much to my disgust found it North and later N.W. As there was no use going out I went back to bed again, and there remained until seven o'clock. We loafed around all day and shot the guns at a target; Mr. B.'s 20-gauge seemed to have as much penetration at any distance we fired as my gun, at which I was very much surprised. On pattern I nearly doubled him. There were scarcely any fowl flying, and we did not *see* more than one hundred and fifty all day. There is little prospect again for tomorrow, and I am much disappointed at the result of the trip thus far. The weather has been unfavorable every day, and also cold and, as far as I can learn, no fowl have gone to the eastward as yet, although I believe some flew last Sunday.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 20, 1890

Up at the usual time, with light west wind and pretty cool. It hauled around about noon to east, and in the P.M. to S. Only a few fowl passed, and G. H. M. did not do much, having few chances and those poor. In the P.M. he did not get a fowl. Brewster did well with his 20 today, and shot most of the birds. When he becomes more accustomed to the motion of the boat he will do finely I think. There have been few flight fowl passed as yet. The weather is too cold, and wind continually against us.

G. H. M.

9 Scoters
1 King Eider. Brewster
1 Great Northern Diver. G. H. M.
1 Horned Grebe. G. H. M.
1 Long-tailed Duck

13

West Island, R. I.
April 21, 1890

We got up at quarter of four and set off wide from the High Rock with wind west. About seven o'clock the wind came S.W. light. A considerable number of fowl moved, but flew high and made poor shooting. G. H. M. shot Brewster's little 20-gauge gun, and made two or three long shots, as far as with any gun, He also missed or failed to kill several where he thought he could have killed them with his own 12-bore. B. took G. H. M.'s gun, but could not shoot it. We leave at 10 o'clock P.M. for Boston, and this is the poorest trip I have ever had since I commenced coming. The day is warm and moderate. The *fishermen* came down this year on the 15th, two weeks earlier than usual.

G. H. M.

5 Coot

Additional Notes

There were few flight fowl for a week after we left, until the 27th or 28th of April, when there were a good many fowl passed. The wind was blowing hard from the south, previous to that the weather was calm. The eastern birds (May White-Wing Coots) began to go by on the 10th of May. On the 13th May there was a large flight. There was also a large flight on the evening of the 17th of May. On the whole the flight of fowl from the east (May White-Wing Coot) was not as large as last season.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., June 12, 1890

In riding through Gideon's Valley this morning I saw a Bartramian Sandpiper and heard another, which I suppose was the mate.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, July 20, 1890

On the 19th I drove to Hummock Pond and saw nine Red-breasted Snipe, also three Bartramian Sandpipers. I drove there again today and saw three of the former and shot them. On the 16th a friend told me he saw and heard a Hudsonian Curlew up the Harbor. There seem to be a good number of Black Ducks around, most of which have probably been hatched on the Island.

G. H. M.

3 Red-breasted Snipe

Nantucket, July 27, 1890

I drove out to Reedy Pond yesterday and saw three small and one large Yellowleg, and shot one of the former. I also started eight Black Ducks, at least ten minutes after I had fired both barrels of my gun, the report not having disturbed them as they were in the reeds. I also saw five Upland Plover but could not get within shot of one of them. I drove

over the same ground today but did not see anything but two or three Uplands, which were wild, and *thirty-three* Hudsonian Curlew, which is the first time *I* have seen any of these birds this year. We always have a flock of about this number at this time, which seem to make their home between the Little Mioxe Valley and Hummock Pond and Plains country.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 2, 1890

I drove out with the children this morning and saw some half dozen Upland Plover, and a flock of about 18 Jack Curlew. I shot one of the former and one of the latter. The stomach of the Curlew was full of huckleberries, several of which were whole. The stomach of the Bartramian had nothing in it but seeds, but full of those partly digested.

G. H. M.

1 Bartramian Sandpiper
1 Hudsonian Curlew

Nantucket, August 10, 1890

Sidney Chase and myself started out this A.M. about 7½ A.M. for Pocomo Meadows, where we only saw a few Yellowlegs both large and small. Afterwards we drove on to Coskatee Meadows, but saw only five Pectoral Sandpipers. We could not have shot here, had there been birds, as the mosquitoes were fearfully thick and very aggressive. We saw a flock of Pectoral Sandpipers in the high dry lot opposite the Burgess farm (a good Plover field) on the Polpis road, and shot five of them. They were not feeding, but apparently just sitting there. I judge they had been living there for a few days, as they did not want to leave. The weather has been S.E. for a day or two past, with rain.

G. H. M.

5 Pectoral Sandpipers
1 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Winter Yellowleg
2 Lesser Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 11, 1890

S. Chase and I drove out west this P.M. as far as the Hummock Pond. We saw about a dozen Jack Curlew in the distance. We also saw a number of Bartramian Sandpipers, and killed three.

G. H. M.

3 Bartramian Sandpipers

Note from Swampscott, Mass., August 12, 1890

A large flight of Summer Yellowlegs passed here today. Wind very fresh Northeast, no rain, a dry northeaster.

Nantucket, August 15, 16, 1890

Mrs. Mackay drove me out both afternoons after Bartramian Sandpipers. We did not start before three P.M. On the 15th we got five, on the 16th I shot four, but lost one. Judging from these afternoons' shooting I should say these birds were more easily approached the *later* it was in the afternoon, we being able to drive up much nearer to them than earlier in the day.

G. H. M.

8 Bartramian Sandpipers

Nantucket, August 25, 1890

The *first three* Golden Plover for this year were shot in the Mioxe Valley this morning. Two flocks of about ten birds each were seen.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 27, 1890

At daylight the wind was about south, a trifle west in it at times. At four o'clock it commenced to rain and blow very hard, which continued until half past eleven noon. I drove all over the ground between the Miacomet and Hummock Ponds, but only saw five Golden Plover. I also thought I saw a flock

of seventeen a long way off, not certain what kind of birds they were but think they were Golden Plover. None of the gunners I met had seen any birds. At noon it cleared up with wind to the west very fresh. No birds apparently landed this storm.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover (Pale-belly)

Nantucket, August 30, 1890

Wind south east this morning and a little rain, no wind. Thought I would drive out over the Plover ground and see if any birds had landed; came home just before noon, without seeing anything except eight Black Ducks and one Winter Yellowleg. I shot the latter, but did not see a single Golden Plover. I know of only seven of these birds on the Island at present. I heard there were some Plover went over the Island on the night of the 22d, but none landed.

G. H. M.

1 Large Yellowleg

On the evening and night of the 26th August there were a good many Golden Plover passed over the Island, particularly in the vicinity of Siasconset. The wind was South and raining. None, however, stopped. This is the second flight over the Island up to September 14.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 2, 1890

Capt. Wyer and myself drove eastward to Gibbs Pond and looked in all the Black Duck holes, and then on to Sechecha Pond, but only saw one duck, which the Capt. shot down but lost as it was only wounded. We then drove on to Pocomo Meadows. We set the Duck decoys and remained for an hour and a half. G. H. M. shot two ducks and one large Yellowleg. We saw no Golden Plover, and it is safe to say there are none

on the Island. This is the poorest shooting autumn up to date that I have ever known here. Wind fresh N. West. Early in the day it was rather warm, afterwards more wind and cooler.

G. H. M.

2 Black Ducks
1 Large Yellowleg

Nantucket, September 4, 1890

Chase and I drove out west after breakfast, as far as the Hummock Pond, but saw no Plover; shot one Black Duck and one Bartramian Sandpiper and two small Finches[1] which I skinned, not knowing what they were. We set the Duck decoys in the Pond, but did not get a shot, although we remained there pretty much all day. On the way back home we saw two men in the Little Mioxe Valley who had six Plover between them. They had seen one flock of about fifteen during the day, which makes less than two dozen Plover shot on the Island up to date. Wind South, with a little east at times; no rain or wind.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

Nantucket, September 5, 1890

Chase and myself drove out about half past five this A.M. and went pretty much over the western ground. At 8 o'clock we were home again, not having seen anything but a few Bartramian Sandpipers, of which G. H. M. shot down three but lost one. It was foggy a part of the night, with some wind S.W., but all cleared up bright and warm about seven o'clock A.M.

G. H. M.

2 Bartramian Sandpipers

There was quite a flight of Golden Plover going south along the Cape Cod coast on August 23, 1890; none stopped. The

[1] Savanna.

weather was thick, southeast, rainy. They were not seen on Nantucket. One man, a friend, reliable, on Cape Cod saw about 2,500 on the 23d, flying rather low, but not enough so to shoot.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 14, 1890

I drove over the whole of the western ground yesterday and did not see a single bird of any kind. We had quite a rain last night, so Mr. Chase and myself drove out after breakfast over the western ground to see if any Plover had landed. We returned at one P.M., only having seen one Golden Plover, which Mr. C. shot, and one Bartramian Sandpiper. About the time we came home the wind changed from S.W. to North to North E. *very suddenly*, and at three o'clock P.M. it commenced to rain and continued for two hours and then held up. It is melancholy to drive over the ground as often as I have done the past three weeks without seeing any birds. We have a great deal of burnt ground for them this year, but apparently to no avail.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 20, 1890

I drove over the western ground this A.M. but did not see a bird. In the afternoon I drove east and when in the vicinity of Gibbs Pond on some burnt ground saw eight Pale-bellies, but failed to get a shot at them. Wind S.W. clear. I have, however, a much greater item of interest to chronicle. While driving in the neighborhood of the Folger farm, Polpis, I saw a very large *white* bird coming leisurely toward my carriage, which I stopped, and intently watched the bird, which apparently was going to alight every moment but did not, continuing to slowly fly with heavy and very slow flaps about ten yards high. It came within about four or five hundred yards of me, so I saw it pretty plainly, but not so plainly

as I could have wished. I took it first to be a Snowy Owl, but on coming nearer I saw it was a very large White Crane.[1] I had my gun with me, and watched its flight until out of sight, hoping that it would alight and that I might possibly secure it. But it did not. I have *never* in the course of my experience on this island (16 years) even heard of one being seen here before, and my *regret* was *extreme* in being unable to secure so rare a bird. The Golden Plover season has been a failure. I have *never seen its equal.*

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 28, 1890

I drove over the western ground this morning and saw six Pale-bellies, thirteen Scaup Ducks in the Hummock Pond, one Osprey, two Winter Yellowlegs, one Great Blue Heron, about twenty Black Ducks, and three Hudsonian Curlew. I could not get a shot at any of them, and came home without firing my gun. The weather was a very cold dry northeaster.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 29, 1890

I drove out eastward this afternoon, and on a piece of burnt ground near Gibbs Pond saw a flock of about twenty-five Golden Plover, from which I shot five. Four were Pale-bellies, one black and white breasted. The weather was rainy and blowing hard from the northeast in the morning. It cleared towards noon, but wind did not change. This is my last day's shooting on Nantucket for this season, and it has been without exception the poorest in my experience on this Island. It seemed impossible to get the necessary combination of weather and birds at the same time, to make them land.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover

The total for the season was *38* birds.

[1] This bird was shot on Sept. 23, 1890, at Polpis, by Mr. Frank P. Chadwick of Polpis, and I afterward examined it. It was the American Egret (*Herodias egretta*), now in Wm. Brewster collection.

Nantucket, October 25, 1890

Mr. Long shot today, near the no-bottom pond, a *Red Phalarope*, in the grey plumage.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, November 2, 1890

I drove out, via the Miacomet Pond, to the west as far as the Hummock Pond, where I remained until 2 o'clock P.M., as there were a number of young Velvet and Surf Scoters going in and out to the Pond. The wind was fresh, West. I saw quite a number of *Shore Larks* today, about thirty-five to forty. They were widely distributed over the six miles that I drove. I also saw four of the Great Blue Heron and one *Mocking* bird. There have been several hundred of the larger Scaup living in the Hummock and Long Ponds, but as they go in and out very high up, none have been shot. I shot the Mocking bird on the O'Connor farm, about three and a half o'clock P.M. Only one was seen. It appeared like a bird of last year, and was, I believe, a migrant. This is the *third* time I have shot this kind of bird on Nantucket, and always in about the same plumage. I have never found the nest. I shot today the following:

2 Velvet Scoters, White Wings (*O. deglandi*)
3 American Scoters
1 Mocking bird, *Mimus polyglottos*
1 Herring Gull (young), American

G. H. M.

Nantucket, November 3, 1890

From what I noticed yesterday I felt quite certain that, with some decoys, good shooting could be had at the Scoters living in the Hummock Pond. So at 8½ o'clock Charley Snow and I started out to see what we could do. The wind was light West with a little South in it. We found about seventy-five Scoters in the Pond on our arrival. They flew out

while we were setting the decoys, our stand being on the beach about half way across and close to the pond. In the first hour we shot sixteen dead, but not going to pick them up until the end of that time, we were only able to find seven. After the first hour we had a quiet time for over an hour, when they came in again, then a lull, and again they came back between two and three P.M. They were feeding on a small soft-shell clam (*Macoma fragilis*) that was shaped like a quahaug and was about the size of a five-cent nickel. The birds were all young, and mostly White-Wing and Surf Scoters, only one American Scoter being shot out of the entire number, or even seen. It was one of the pleasantest day's shooting I have enjoyed for a long period, as the day was warm and the stand comfortable and the birds quite unsuspicious. We experienced great difficulty in killing them dead, although they came near enough, and we must have certainly shot down fifty or more in all. We picked up at 3.30 P.M. and came home. I saw four Great Blue Heron today. The most of the fowl shot today were the young Surf Scoter and Velvet Scoter. They seemed very fond of the feed in the Pond and, although shot at for the past week every day, they refuse to leave the Pond, only going out to sea for a while when harassed, and flying in over the beach again to the Pond when hungry. I made a remarkable *long* shot at a Black Duck today flying directly overhead. I enjoyed myself very much today.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
30 Surf and White-Wing Scoters
1 American Scoter
1 Herring Gull (young)

Returned to Boston on the 4th.

Notes — Massachusetts

The flight of *Red-breasted Snipe southward* is usually about the 11th or 12th of July.

The flight of the *Red-breasted Sandpiper* going *north* takes place from May 12th to June 3d. I have known of good shooting on the latter date at Redbreast, and great shooting at them on Lake Ontario in the spring.

The flight of the Hudsonian Curlew going south takes place about the 15th to 25th of July.

The Winter Yellowleg. The flight going north in the spring about the 5th of May. The *earliest* I have ever heard of one shot was the middle of April, and the *latest* (3) June 17th.

Pectoral Sandpiper. Mr. Geo. A. Tapley of Revere, Mass., saw six (one flock) in May, 1889, and killed *one.* He also saw two in May, 1890, and killed both. The birds in both instances were shot at Revere, Mass. *Very unusual.*

He informs me that he has *seen* this bird alight on the *ocean* a number of times, he having whistled them down while he was fishing some miles offshore near Revere, Mass., and noticed when they got out of the water they gave themselves a shake. He said they swam well and floated on the water like little ducks.

Summer Yellowleg. Mr. Geo. A. Tapley of Revere, Mass., informs me that he has shot about a dozen, during his long shooting experience, in the *spring.* The whole of them, with the exception of two or three, which he killed at North Dennis, Cape Cod, Mass., were shot at Revere, Mass. They are *very unusual* at this season.

Black-breasted Plover. The earliest I have ever heard any of these birds coming in the spring was May 6th, some on the 14th May. The most of them come about the 20th May and after. They leave about first week in June. These notes are for Massachusetts. In the autumn the *first* appeared July 31st, the bulk of them appearing about Aug. 12. The *young* come all the way from Sept. 1st to Oct. 1st.

Golden Plover. Mr. Geo. A. Tapley informs that some years ago he shot Golden Plover and Eskimo Curlew on Aug. 14 at Revere, Mass., unable to fix the year.

Mr. Geo. A. Tapley also informs me that he has seen thousands of Long-tail Ducks (Old Squaws) fly from December to March from Lake Ontario to Niagara River. This was during the years 1860 to 1865 both inclusive. He has also seen the *King Eider*, but *never* any of the American Eider, flying *down*, but *never* up, Saint Clair River from October to Nov. 15 during the above mentioned years, 1860–1865. Has also seen Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. He has seen the White-Wing Scoters flying over the Whirlpool, Niagara River, going towards Lake Ontario, about the 25 of May, 1862.

G. H. M.

Bartramian Sandpiper. Should a number of Bartramian Sandpipers be on the ground within gunshot of the *concealed* sportsman, and he *continues* to keep concealed and quiet, he may shoot the whole number without rising, as these birds are not afraid of the report of the gun but will remain on the ground without taking alarm.

Eskimo Curlew. The first flight (old birds) generally appears from the 24th of August to 1st of September, and the young birds from the 8th of September to 1st of October.

Boston, February 5, 1891

I took today *from* the *throat* of a Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) shot at Swan Island (near Mt. Desert Island ? Maine) on February 2d, '91, *nineteen* shells, *Purpura lapillus*, eight of which were large, six medium, and five rather small (sketch). These seem a pretty *hard shell* for such birds to grind up in their gizzards.

Geo. H. Mackay

Feather Notes

Four well-feathered old drake American Eider Ducks will produce one pound of feathers when picked. Eight White-Wing Scoters will yield one pound. Twelve Surf Scoters will yield one pound of feathers. Twelve American Scoters yield one pound, and sixteen Scaup Ducks. Three average-sized Loons will yield one pound. Four Canada Geese will yield one pound.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, February 20, 1891

Mr. S. Chase and myself left Boston yesterday and arrived here about five o'clock P.M. Owing to some mistake, G.H.M.'s trunk was left in Boston. As it contained his gun and shooting outfit, a day's sport for the next day seemed doubtful, but by borrowing from several people he was enabled to appear at daybreak on the end of the jetty thoroughly equipped. The weather was very moderate, with a light south east wind. It commenced to snow about nine A.M., and later rain. At twelve noon our cartridges gave out, so we had to return, much to our regret. We must have shot down about 80 Scoters, and succeeded in saving fifty-five, *all* being White-Wings, neither of the other kinds being seen. I would here state that the season has been an open one, and I learned from enquiry that no one remembers seeing so many fowl in the neighborhood of Nantucket for a great many years. They were feeding entirely on *sea* clams, and some individual birds had ten and twelve in their throats of various sizes, some being as large as a silver half dollar, and as small as a small cent piece. I had an idea before I had seen this great body of wild fowl that I could form some estimate of their numbers. I was greatly mistaken, however, as the mind was totally inadequate to do so. By taking a small flock an estimate of 2,000 was made, and by comparison of the space it occupied

I tried to guess at what numbers were in the larger ones. I asked the others with me, but they alike confessed their inability to form even an estimate. However, we came to a sort of agreement that there must be half a million, and there may have been twice that number feeding and living between Great Point and Muskeget, and when they rose up it reminded me on a large scale of a body of gnats, and the movement of the birds reminded me of those insects. It was a *great sight*. All those birds I saw were White-Wing Scoters, except one flock of about 2,000 Long-tailed Ducks, which were sitting about five miles off the north shore of the Island. There were also mixed in with the White-Wings some Eider Ducks, besides some large flocks by themselves. The number we might have shot was only restricted by the quantity of our cartridges and our ability to fire them. Such an opportunity rarely occurs in one's experience, and it was a great sight. As the wind and tide swept them away from the feeding ground they were constantly flying up, that is the tail end of them, and alighting again at the *head* of the flock, thus causing a continual movement among them.

G. H. Mackay

55 White-Wing Scoters

While shooting White-Winged Scoters today I noticed that a *good many* of them were already *mated*, which seems *very early*.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, February 21, 1891

As the tide was too high for us to lie on the jetty until about ten o'clock A.M., we did not go off there until that time. The day was cold, with a strong southwest wind, which forced the birds offshore, and consequently gave us little opportunity of shooting much. It was also most difficult work picking up the dead birds, as they drifted away so fast, it not

being prudent to go too far after them on account of being unable to row back. It also rained a little, which made it anything but comfortable.

G. H. M.

9 White-Wing Scoters
2 American Eiders

The American Golden Plover when in confinement will eat the common earth or angle worm.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, February 22, 1891

S. Chase and I drove out to the Hummock Pond about ten o'clock today. The wind was west by north and northwest and cold, as it was blowing quite hard. We saw some Meadow Larks on the way (five or six birds) and about twenty Horned Larks. In the Hummock Pond we saw about one hundred and fifty to two hundred Scaup Ducks, so we set the decoys and built a stand. One small bunch came back after they had flown out, and we fired at long range at them, getting down two, but failed to secure either. Later a pair of American Widgeon [1] (Bald Pates) came high up overhead and G. H. M. made a remarkable shot, killing one, which was secured. There has been a flock of about forty Red Heads frequenting Coskatee Pond, and *three* drakes (which I saw) were shot out of it today. They were very fat. There are about 30 Brant living in the harbor, and about 80 at Muskeget. *Two* were shot up the harbor on the 20th.

G. H. M.

1 Bald Pate, American Widgeon

Notes

Nantucket, January, 1891

During the first week in January two Swan were seen flying from Polpis towards Sechacha Pond.

G. H. M.

[1] Rare for New England. The stomach contained *nothing* but a little sand.

Woods Hole, January 3, 1890(?1891)

Three Mallard Ducks were shot today from a flock of nineteen Black Ducks. One was seen on Dec. 9, 1890. There are a few taken here every winter. G. H. M.

Woods Hole, February 6, 1891

A Wilson's Tern, immature plumage, was shot off the Fish Commission Wharf today, only one seen. Yesterday 40 Brant, and also 12 Canada Geese, were seen flying up Buzzard's Bay. On Jan. 17, 1891, and on Dec. 24, 1890, there was a Black-crowned Night Heron shot on each date here. A Crow Blackbird was seen on Naushon Island on Jan. 14, 1891 (had one of its wings apparently injured, as it flew sideways); also 2 Belted Kingfishers, seen on same Island, Jan. 21, 1891.

G. H. M.

Nantucket Notes

March 22d, 1891. The most of the great body of White-Wing Scoters, which have been living during the past winter along the north shore of this Island, left today.

March 28, 1891. The greater part of the American Eiders which have been living along the north shore of Nantucket Island left today.

April 20, 1891. On this date two Hudsonian Curlew were shot by Mr. Mullay on Muskeget Island. On April 23, 1891, twelve were seen on Stony Point, Nantucket, by Dr. Granger and Mr. John Coffin of Nantucket.

April 23, 1891. Mr. Charles E. Snow of Nantucket drove within a dozen yards of two Bartramian Sandpipers, at the western portion of Nantucket Island, one of which ran from a small bush, which was not examined for a nest. G. H. M.

Nantucket, March 28, 1891

S. Chase and I left Boston yesterday to come here for a couple of days' wild fowl shooting, for we had learned in re-

sponse to a telegram of enquiry that there were a good many Eider Ducks which daily passed the stone jetty. The next day we were on the jetty at daylight, with Sidney Fisher to pick up our ducks and help row the boat. The wind was moderate N. East and cloudy and pretty cold. We had about fourteen decoys made of Eider Duck *skins* mounted on wooden blocks, which made the best decoys possible. We did not see nearly as many ducks as we had anticipated, having been informed there were nearly one thousand, whereas we only saw altogether about two hundred and fifty, but a large share of these came near the decoys, and as they came in small groups many decoyed. The shooting was all over at nine and a half o'clock A.M., and as it commenced to breeze up we came on shore. I saw quite a number of young American Eiders, about twenty in all. The great body of Scoters which have been living in this vicinity all winter have *gone*, the most of them leaving about the 22d of March, at which time *many* of the Eiders also left. The gunners say they have eaten up the sea clam on which they have been feeding, and a computation of how many bushels they have consumed would be interesting, as I have taken ten to twelve specimens from the throats of some of them (Scoters). After coming ashore about ten o'clock A.M., we hired a horse and wagon and drove to the Hummock Pond, where we found some two hundred Scaup Ducks (Broadbills). We set out decoys. The wind was very fresh N.E. As they had been considerably shot at, they would not decoy much, but we shot down ten, although we only succeeded in saving five. On the 29th we went to the Hummock Pond again, with wind same way and *very fresh*. We did not get a bird, and on the morning of the 30th we returned to Boston. On the way up we saw scarcely any Scoters or Eiders and they evidently have left. A flock of eight Canada Geese flew low down over the steamboat within a good gunshot, and we wished we had our guns in hand.

G. H. M.

1 Herring Gull
6 American Eiders, *S. dresseri*
1 American Scoter
1 Red-breasted Merganser
1 Crow
5 Scaup Duck, *A. m. nearctica*
31 American Eiders, *S. dresseri*

46

N.B. Saw a single Piping Plover on the Hummock Pond beach on the 29th of March, 1891.

Nantucket, May 27, 1891

I started after breakfast and drove west, stopping at all the ponds along the shore, but saw nothing until I reached the Hummock Pond. Here I saw four or five Black-breasted Plover, and shot two of them. I then continued on via the Sheep pond and head of Long Pond to the Creeks. At the latter place I saw some half dozen Black-breast Plover and some twenty Turnstone. I set my decoys at the Narrow Creek (mouth) and remained until the tide came up sufficiently to cover all the flats, it being low water when I reached there. The wind was Northeast, not very fresh, but fair breeze. The turnstones were in the most beautiful plumage I ever saw, and I shall never say again that Audubon's plates of this bird are too highly colored.

G. H. M.

1 Black-crowned Night Heron (full plumage)
11 Turnstones
4 Black-breasted Plover

16

Nantucket, May 28, 1891

Capt. Wyer and I were obliged to make an early start this morning, as we had concluded to go to Coskatee and

Pocomo. We got up at quarter of four, had breakfast, and drove off at five A.M. We drove at once to Coskatee, which took an hour and three quarters. We did not see a bird on the way, or on the marshes, but on the glades saw some half dozen of the large Yellowlegs and a few Blacks; also two broods of young Black Ducks, one with six which had only been hatched two or three days, and one of eight, which were *very* much larger (three times). There being no Black-breast Plover up here, we drove to Pocomo Meadows. Here we saw four large Yellowlegs and a number of Black-crowned Night Herons, and I would here remark that I must have seen as many as thirty-five of these birds today. At Pocomo I set my decoys and sat behind them for nearly *five hours* in a hot sun. The only birds I *saw* were two Black-breast Plover, three Turnstone and some half dozen large Yellowlegs. I was much discouraged, as I had expected to find a number of Black-breast Plover. The day was fine, wind easterly. I shall not go out again. Birds are too scarce.

G. H. M.

1 Turnstone
1 Greater Yellowleg
1 Black-crowned Night Heron

Nantucket, July 13, 1891

While driving out this afternoon, I saw on the beach shore of the Hummock Pond four Hudsonian Curlew, the first of the season. This is a little earlier than usual.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, July 31, 1891

I drove out to the Hummock Pond this P.M. and saw twenty Hudsonian Curlew in Gideon's Valley. I set the decoys, and Mrs. M. drove around them and started them. They came by me without paying any attention to the decoys; they

were too far, but as they were well together I fired two shells of No. 4 at them and shot out two, but could only find one.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew

N.B. There were 20 birds in the flock. I saw, besides, two Bartramian Sandpipers.

Nantucket, August 2, 1891

I drove west with Mr. S. Chase this morning. We saw about fifteen Bartramian Sandpipers, three Black-crowned Night Herons, nine Pectoral Sandpipers. Wind S.W. Rain last night.

G. H. M.

1 Bartramian Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 16, 1891

I drove to the end of Smith's Point this morning, starting at seven and arriving home at 12 noon. We (Mr. S. Chase and I) saw and put up between 40 and 50 Black Ducks from the Reedy Pond. We also saw about a dozen Bartramian Sandpipers on the way out. When at the Creeks we saw three or four Black-bellied Plover and about ten Turnstone. G. H. M. shot one of the former, which had the breast nearly black. It was not a *very* old bird, however. The *back* lacked the black and white spots *defined* as in the real old adults. On the end of the Point we saw Mr. Geo. Coffin of Tuckernuck and Dr. Granger of Providence, who informed me they *saw three Eskimo Curlew* last night about six o'clock P.M. The weather had been rainy from 1 o'clock P.M. until four and a half P.M. This is the *earliest date* I have ever heard of the Eskimo Curlew in New England, and I can only say I should have been a little more certain of the fact, had I seen them myself. Still both of these men are gunners and know the bird perfectly well in distinction from the Hudsonian Curlew, which I suggested to them it might possibly be, but they seemed certain of their statement. There are about

thirty Hudsonian Curlew living on Tuckernuck, they tell me, and as I have seen a flock of about that number on Nantucket, I judge they come off occasionally and make us a visit. The weather today has been cloudy but no rain, beautiful soft air and just a little breeze, North by West. We had a most delightful drive today and enjoyed it.

G. H. M.

1 Black-bellied Plover

Nantucket, August 20, 1891

The *first* arrival of American Golden Plover today (late in P.M.), about thirty in the flock. 13 Eskimo Curlew were also seen.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 22, 1891

I saw a White-Wing Scoter this P.M., flying towards the west, about five miles north of this Island. It was alone.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 24, 1891

It has been foggy on the outside of the Island (S. and E.) for several days, with some light air S.W. Last night we had a very severe thunder and lightning storm beginning at midnight. S. Chase and I were out early all over the western plover ground and, much to my disappointment, we found no birds had been seen or come on the Island. It was one of those times when the *weather* conditions were just right to land plover and hold them here, but unfortunately for us, *no birds* happened to be passing the Island at the time. About 10.30 o'clock A.M. the wind hauled South by east and came out sunny and hot with fog outside. We drove clear to the Creeks, but only saw the Great Blue Heron, about sixty Black Ducks, three or four Pectoral Sandpipers, one larger and four smaller Yellowlegs.

G. H. M.

2 Small Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 29, 1891

On Thursday night (the 27th) some birds said to be Golden Plover were heard flying and whistling as they passed over the Island. On the next day some dozen or fifteen Golden Plover were seen by my friend Chase, who fired at them. These are the first birds that have come on the Island since the noting of the flock on the 20th inst., from which date until today we have had warm, humid S. West weather with but little wind, but a good deal of *fog,* which was very thick during the night and late afternoon, clearing up wholly and in part at intervals during the day. The wind came fresh N.W. and W. before daylight. This morning Chase and myself drove all over the Plover ground, but only saw two, one of which I shot. We also saw a number (13 or 15) of Bartramian Sandpipers, one Blue Heron, and two or three Black Ducks.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 30, 1891

At daylight the wind was N.East, and raining, later on it backed around to N.E. again, going around the compass; it having rained continuously all day, at times very hard, sometimes with much wind, at others nearly calm. A few birds were heard whistling last night as they passed over the town. *Very few* Golden Plover landed, two or three flocks only having been seen during the entire day. The *first* Eskimo Curlew of this season was shot today, and I saw it. I heard of no other birds of any kind being shot. One flock of about 20 Eskimo Curlew were supposed ? to have been seen. At nine P.M. this evening it is still raining, with wind fairly fresh North East. I expect to go out in the morning early.

G. H. M.

P.S. Quite a number of Golden Plover passed over S'conset tonight, but none stopped. They were heard.

(This postscript belongs with the record for Aug. 31, 1891. It is written at the top of the page which has that record, but it may belong to the preceding record.— J.C.P.)

Nantucket, August 31, 1891

Mr. Chase and I were up early and drove to the Reedy Pond. The sky was lowering and the atmosphere misty, almost raining, and wind North East, at which point it remained all day. Every one thought there were going to be plenty of birds today, judging from the number of gunners out, but only a few scattering Plover were seen, and a few of the larger Yellowlegs. We did not give it up until 4 o'clock P.M. No one shot any birds. We saw one flock of about 30 birds, Golden Plover, flying south on migration. It is thick again tonight and we shall start early again tomorrow morning. The Plover are passing in small numbers now and we shall hope to have some of them land any night or day. No rain today; fair breeze.

G. H. M.

2 American Golden Plover
1 Red-breasted Snipe

—

3

Nantucket, September 1, 1891

S. Chase and I left the house at 4¼ A.M. and drove to Gideon's Valley, where I set out on a piece of burnt ground and he went on to the head of the Reedy Pond. The weather was cloudy, misty, and very thick fog at times during the day (these conditions prevailed from Aug. 30 A.M. until Sept. 2 A.M.), and it was apparently very good weather for Golden Plover to be passing and landing (one flock of at least one hundred were seen flying south high up on migration this morning). Still no birds came on, and I only saw thirteen Golden Plover from 5 o'clock A.M. until noon, and those I did see were only odd straggling birds, with one exception, when a small bunch of eight passed my decoys without paying any attention to them or my call whistle. At noon we gave it up and drove to the S.East part of the Island, but we did not see any birds. Wind North East all day, only fresh

at times. Some Plover were heard passing over the town last evening, but none stopped. I saw one Eskimo Curlew today, which is the only one I have heard of on the Island since the one of Aug. 30; both these birds were alone.

G. H. M.

1 Lesser Yellowleg
1 Pectoral Sandpiper

Nantucket Notes

The Eskimo Curlew feeds on the seeds of the poverty grass (*Hudsonia tomentosa*), after a fire has run through it (burnt ground) and on the *grey sand spider* (*Lycosa*). These spiders have holes in the sand among the beach grass where they live; some which I measured were as deep as thirteen inches, with a diameter of half to three quarters of an inch. These birds also eat earth worms.

The American Golden Plover will eat the burned portion of the small red berry called the "*mealy plum*" (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), bearberry. They also eat earth worms. They also eat the grey sand spiders (*Lycosa*) and burned poverty grass seeds (burned ground). The Hudsonian Curlew also eat the above spiders (*Lycosa*).

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 6, 1891

S. Chase and I were up at 3 A.M. and drove out to Gideon's Valley. The wind was S.W. and *very dense* fog which had prevailed about all night. We each set our decoys on a large piece of burnt ground there, and here we remained until 12½ noon. The fog lifted over parts of the land, and at 12 o'clock we had a squall of rain. The wind backed up as far as S.East during the morning. We only *saw* 4 Golden Plover, not another thing, and G. H. M. shot two of them. We saw several gunners who had been to the east and also to the west of us, but no birds were reported. It is first rate bird weather for Plover to land in, but there are evidently none passing.

Up to date this is the poorest year I have ever known on the Island. The same condition of weather prevailed all day.

2 Golden Plover

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 12, 1891

There was quite a hard *local* northeast rain on the 7th, on which night a number of flocks of Plover were heard passing over the Island about 8½ o'clock P.M. None stopped. I went to Boston on this day and returned last evening. This morning at half past six I drove all over the Plover ground at the west, but did not see anything with the exception of six or seven Golden Plover and two Black-bellied Plover sitting at the head of the Miacomet Pond. I drove up near enough and with my little 20 bore I got four of the Golden Plover. I saw one Black Duck, but not a thing else. Returned home at 11½ o'clock. Calm early, then a little air from the South, very pleasant. I shot the *first Pale-belly* today.

G. H. M.

4 American Golden Plover

Notes

Sept. 25, 1891. About sunset two flocks of *young* American Golden Plover passed from east to west along the south side of Nantucket, there being about sixty birds in the aggregate. They finally alighted on the crown of the sand beach, where they only remained a very short time and then moved again towards the west, flying low down.

G. H. M.

Nantucket Island, Siasconset
September 14, 1891

Four good-sized flocks of Plover went by here this morning during a severe rain squall, flying on migration. None came down to land. There were about two hundred and fifty birds in the aggregate.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 26, 1891

Drove out this morning, saw two young Black-breasted Plover, *C. squatarola*. Drove out again on the 29th and saw one young Black-breasted Plover, which I shot.

G. H. M.

1 Black-breasted Plover

Notes

Tringa maritima, Purple Sandpiper. Have seen them middle of October, shot them in December and January. Sometimes fifty in a flock. They make a prolonged peeping note. They run down on the rocks (lying some distance from the mainland) as the sea recedes, and then back again when it surges in, and are very expert and agile in avoiding getting wet. They never come on the sand beaches in New England. They are found in winter on the Salvages off Cape Ann and on Pig Rocks off Swampscott, Mass.

Nantucket Island, October 6, 1891

During the severe storm about four hundred Scoters came into the Hummock Pond, and at last account still continued to frequent it.

P.S. The above number was increased before the first of November to fifteen hundred.

G. H. M.

Boston, Nov. 5, 1891. A female Eider Duck was brought into the market today from the South Shore of Massachusetts. I saw the bird. The date seems very early, as the bird must have been killed several days earlier.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, December 10, 1891

Geo. Kendall and G. H. M. left Boston yesterday for this place. With Charles Snow we drove out to Ram Pasture Point and set the decoys, remaining all day. There was a

fresh West wind, which increased as the day progressed. In the Hummock Pond there were about 250 Scaup Ducks and about one hundred Scoters, mostly White Wings. We did not have much shooting, as when disturbed the Scaup would fly to another part of the pond, where they would remain (not apparently feeding, however) until disturbed again, and when flying would mount high up generally out of gunshot when they happened to pass over us, and we were unable to accomplish anything as a result. The weather was clear and not cold. I saw a number of flocks of Scoters, flying to the westward outside the beach. Two or three of the flocks looked like Brant also flying to the West, but they were too far out to be certain what they were. We shot down ten birds and saved:

2 Larger Scaup (*A. m. nearctica*)
4 White Wing Scoters

G. H. M.

Nantucket, December 12, 1891
Smith's Point

We came out here yesterday noon. Wind west, clear. Arose this A.M. at 4.30 and went on Point. Wind fresh N.W., with west tide. Shot down about thirty Long-tailed Ducks. They came from the east. Saw about 1,500 Long-tailed Ducks, 250 White Wing Scoters, about 250 American Eiders (all estimated); also saw one flock of 14 Brant, one of 9 and one of three. Saw about the same number in the P.M. Think they were the same birds, all living around this locality. They flew from the east early to the west and from the west in the P.M. Also saw 400 to 500 of the larger Scaup Duck. Owing to the tide we only saved five birds. Wind came west at noon, fresh, and continued all the rest of the day and night. Beautiful weather. The east tide commenced about 7 o'clock A.M.

5 Long-tailed Ducks

G. H. M.

Smith's Point, December 13, 1891

Up at 4.30 and went on the Point. Strong west wind blowing, with a little north in it at times. The tide was quite high, and our stand full of water, which made it very inconvenient. Very few Old Squaws flew, and those from the east. None from the west. Only about 400 to 500 of them passed (estimated). We only saw about 75 Eiders. It was west tide up to 7½ A.M., when it changed to the east. We shot down about 25 Long-tailed Ducks. These birds are bedded on the "Old Man's Rip" and they go around the Island into the Sound to roost, sometimes via Great Point, and sometimes via Smith's Point. The course they take is governed by the wind, they taking advantage of the lee side of the Island. From what I can learn, I judge the *average* of dead birds recovered will not amount to more than 40%. I think on bright moonlight nights and with fairly moderate weather they at times remain on the bed and do not fly out into the Sound to roost. The Long-tail Duck appears here in large numbers about the third week in October, and leaves middle of December. While on this trip I noticed a great preponderance of male birds, of those seen only about 20% being females. They usually fly close to the water, sometimes flying on an upward plane and then on a downward one, and they will dodge when a gun is fired at them. They avoid passing over white water when the sea is breaking. More or less of them remain all winter unless driven out by the porridge ice, which they cannot stand. The great body, however, move south. They fly with short and very quick strokes. I saw *today* a *Sanderling* Sandpiper, which came within five yards of me. Weather clear and pleasant and not cold.

G. H. M.

15 Long-tailed Ducks, Old Squaws
1 American Eider

Smith's Point, December 14, 1891

We set the clock at 3.30 A.M. and after breakfast went to the Point. Wind West and pleasant, warm; in fact the

weather has been more like October than December since we have been here. The tide was so high we could not lie in our stand, so we sat down on the beach. The birds flew wide out, and we only had very long shots. It needs a strong N.W. or N.N.West wind to press the birds on the Point in order to get them within fair shooting range. We shot down 18 dead birds, but only saved six of them. At noon we packed up and came to town and next morning started for Boston.

G. H. M.

6 Long-tailed Ducks

Recapitulation

In order to get good Long-tail Duck (Old Squaw) shooting at Smith's Point, Nantucket, *three* things are requisite. First, a strong N.W. or N.N.W. wind. Second, low water at daylight with the *last* run of the west tide, and first run of the east tide. Third, plenty of birds. As the Point is *now* (for it is constantly changing), dig your stand as close to the water as possible to be dry, and have the hotel on Tuckernuck bear N.N.W. A N.W. wind will also do. Dark nights with no moon are desirable. With favorable conditions only about 35% of the dead birds can be recovered, and no wounded ones. With the *right* kind of a time you can shoot for an hour and a half about as fast as you can put in the shells or the gun becomes too hot to hold, after which the shooting is over, the Old Squaws by that time having about all flown by from where they roosted in the Sound to their feeding ground on the Old Man's Rip and Miacomet Rip extending from Siasconset to the Miacomet Pond.

G. H. M.

N.B. There are two and one quarter hours difference in the tides on Nantucket Bar, and on Smith's Point. South moon makes high water on Nantucket Bar. Old Squaws most abundant last two weeks in November usually.

American Golden Plover Notes at Prince Edward Island for 1891

Malpeque, Aug. 24, 1891. The first movement of these birds took place today, one hundred and eighteen seen. None were shot. The weather was like April, wind southeast, first rain, then clear, then rain again in the P.M. No defined movement after this date but the birds came along in scattering flocks almost daily. No birds seen at Tignish (northeast end of P. E. Island) until Aug. 31, when a good many were noticed.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., February 21, 1892

Sidney Chase and I came here from Boston yesterday P.M. On nearing the Island we found much floating ice in the Harbor, and jammed in all about the jetty, and the prospect of being able to get on the latter place next morning very doubtful. We got up at twenty minutes after three A.M., dressed and had breakfast, then got into a wagon and drove to the jetty, where there was a dory. We found a light air from the east, and all the ice gone except that the jetty was covered with it. We had our decoys set at daylight (skins of Eider Ducks stretched over wooden blocks). I suppose for the next three hours we saw about one hundred Eiders, a very few scattering White-Wing Scoters, and a few Old Squaws. We remained here until a little after eleven o'clock and then gave it up, as scarcely anything moved. We shot down some twenty or more Eiders and were disappointed in not having more birds come to us. But they have been shot at so much from this place that they cannot bed and become attached to the neighborhood of the jetty. The weather was lowering and very cold, and we sat on a cake of ice without being able to move around all the time we were on the jetty. There were occasional drops of rain and flakes of snow. We saw six Brant which came from the eastward, and I hear there are

quite a number up the Harbor. I also noticed many Old Squaws, and White Wing Scoters were already paired; noticed the same thing when I came through the Sound on the 20th inst. After coming on shore at 11½ o'clock noon, we hired a horse and wagon and drove out to the ponds at the west part of the Island. We found many of them with considerable open water, and the balance of the ice was very rotten. In the Hummock Pond we saw several hundred of the Larger Scaup Duck. After looking over the situation in order to see if we could shoot any of them next day, we came back to town. We shot a Great Northern Diver in the gray plumage today, the wings of which had scarcely any feathers. The bird could not possibly have flown, and I took it to be a case of moulting. I have never before seen anything similar to it. I saw a good many fowl (Scoters) bedded off Chappaquidick Light House, about a half mile to a mile from the shore. They seemed to be all Scoters. During the remainder of the trip down through the Sound I saw very few sea fowl, a great contrast to the myriads I saw at this date last year. The winter has been a mild and open one, with only a very few days of *severe* weather.

G. H. M.

1 Great Northern Diver
1 American Scoter
12 American Eiders

14

Boston, March 26, 1892. I saw today a Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) which was shot at South Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass., on the 24th or 25th inst.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, February 22, 1892

We could not go to the jetty this morning, as there was too much wind from the Northeast and, the tide being high, the waves dashed over the jetty. We therefore hired a horse and

drove to the Hummock Pond, where I was all set on the east side of the Ram Pasture at 8 o'clock A.M. There were a good many Scaup Ducks in the pond, but not so many as yesterday. We soon saw we could accomplish little with them. I shot seven birds dead. The crows ate up three of them, two lodged on the ice where it was impossible to reach them, and two *I* saved. Chase shot three and saved them all. It was not long before the birds left us and went to the Long Pond and some to the Miacomet Pond. When they come in they fly *very high*, and they pay but little attention to the decoys, which, however, were not Scaup decoys. We found it pretty cold again today, with the fresh North and sometimes North-east wind. We came back to town about two o'clock P.M. and packed up and got all ready to come to Boston next morning. I expect to go down again in March. I shot nothing but my 20 gauge this trip, and liked it very well, but I did not have enough Eiders to shoot at to test it thoroughly; that is, if I could kill them by shooting them through the *body*. Of course they would always come when hit in the head or neck. Saw very few fowl coming up on my return trip to Boston.

1 American Golden-eye Widgeon
1 Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*)
3 Larger Scaup (*A. m. nearctica*) G. H. M.

Boston, Mass., March 21, 1892. I saw several Black Ducks (*Anas obscura*) in Faneuil Hall Market today, shot in this vicinity. One of them had the throat full of shells. I took out some of these shells and had them identified. They were *Macoma fusca*. They were covered with mud. G. H. M.

Nantucket, April 2, 1892

I came here from Boston yesterday. I saw scarcely any Scoters while passing through the Sound, until within three miles of Nantucket, when I saw about one hundred (estimated) American Eiders. The wind was light, West,

weather moderate. This morning I arose at five minutes of two o'clock A.M. and rowed to the end of the western jetty. I had to wait three quarters of an hour before it was light enough to set my *skin* Eider decoys. The weather was moderate, with light S.S. West wind. At eleven o'clock it breezed up very fresh. After remaining until nearly eleven o'clock, only having a few Eiders to the decoys and seeing but very few, I rowed over to the eastern jetty and set the decoys there. Here I shot down five Red-breasted Mergansers and saved three, all long and handsome shots. At 12½ o'clock noon it was blowing hard and my boatman and I thought we had better return while we were able. It was a slow hard row to windward for us. There have been a very large number of Old Squaws in most of the ponds even some of the very small ponds. In the Hummock Pond there were a large number, and in the Long Pond as many as eight hundred (estimated) were living. They came in the morning, and went out to sea at night to roost. The Eiders I saw yesterday *departed* last night. They must have migrated, as I saw them yesterday but not today. All told I did not *see* over twenty to twenty-five. I saw also today a very few White Wing and American Scoters, and about seventy-five (estimated) Old Squaws. I tried the wood powder today but did not like it. The Dupont duck shooting powder I have used for so many years is still as satisfactory as ever.

G. H. M.

7 American Eiders
3 Red-breasted Mergansers
1 Old Squaw

West Island, R. I., Seconnet Point
April 15, 1892

I missed coming to this most delightful spot last spring, much to my regret. Today Sidney Chase and I left on the 9.30 A.M. train and arrived on the Point at 1.30 P.M., and

after changing our clothes we fixed up our decoys and prepared the boats. In the early morning the wind was Northeast, cold, with *snow*. It stopped about nine o'clock A.M., being still cold. I saw three flocks (estimated 50 birds) of Scoters on migration, either the Surf or American, too far to be sure which. They flew to the eastward pretty high up. In the afternoon the wind all died away and came very light, almost a calm South to West and much warmer. The prospect is fair for more or less fowl tomorrow. The weather during the first week in April was hot, the thermometer going to 71° on the 2d and 78° on the 3d in the shade. On the *4th* there was rain in the morning with wind from the eastward. It changed to southwest about 8 o'clock A.M. The Scoters flew from daylight until eleven o'clock continuously. It was a *large* movement, and is the earliest record I have ever heard of. They were all flying towards the eastward. There were some White Wing Scoters. On April 7 the weather was clear, light Southwest wind in A.M., increased to a strong breeze in the P.M. Saw large flocks of White Wing Scoters flying from the east to the west between three and four o'clock P.M. These were not, however, *flight* or *migratory* birds. April 8.— Warm and clear, a perfect spring day. Light wind from the southwest in the afternoon. No Scoters moving. April 9.— Strong northwest wind, sometimes west, all day; cloudy and cold. Some fowl flying in no particular direction, probably those that are living in the vicinity. April 10.— Same kind of weather as yesterday but much colder; ice half an inch thick this morning. No Scoters about. April 11.— No change in the weather; very cold. No Scoters to be seen. April 12.— Strong westerly wind and cold. No Scoters. April 14.—Light northwest wind until ten o'clock A.M., then changed to southwest. Strong breeze after three o'clock P.M. A few Scoters flying east in the afternoon.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 16, 1892

We arose at 4 o'clock A.M. The weather was clear and quite calm, light air N.West. Some old sea heaving in. Not very cold. We were off the Clump at sunrise. The most of the Scoters that flew came from the eastward to westward, *traders*. There was no significance in the movement. Saw only a few *flight* fowl today, but saw 25 or 26 Great Northern Divers flying east on migration, about sixty yards up; one bunch of five and one of six, the others in two or three or single. Saw about a dozen American Eiders, evidently been living in the vicinity. There is a flock of about an acre of Scoters, about a mile to the eastward of East Island. There were not many Scoters flying to the eastward, and those mostly Surf Scoters. Saw about 50 Old Squaws, mostly flying to the westward (traders). There were 18 Cormorants, which were in sight by *count* (through the large glass), that roosted on the Cormorant Rocks last night off Newport. There were probably many more which I could not see, they being behind the Rock. I saw four or five of them today. I also saw a Gannet. At 10¼ A.M. the wind came S.W. It had been calm all the morning, but there was no movement of Scoters as a consequence. We came on shore at 11½ o'clock and had breakfast; went off again at 1 o'clock P.M., remained an hour and a half and then came in, as it breezed up very fresh from the west, there being no fowl flying. It is blowing a two-reef breeze this P.M. and hardly a Scoter is moving. We had poor luck getting those birds we shot down, not killing them dead, as the shooting was at *long* distances. A little rain at 2 o'clock P.M.

G. H. M.

3 American Scoters
3 Surf Scoters
1 White Wing Scoter
1 Long-tailed Duck

8

P.S. I thought I would watch with the telescope and see what time the Cormorants came to the Rock this P.M. The

first one came at 6.22 P.M.; in one minute by the watch 8 were on the Rock. Last evening they came about 20 minutes earlier. They came *from* the west today.

G. H. M.

West Island, R. I.
April 17, 1892

We got up at 4 o'clock A.M. and went off the Clump. There was a gentle breeze about west. There was quite a flight of Scoters, mostly White Wings. Some Surf flying from the eastward to the westward (traders), same as yesterday morning, only more of them. I should think nearly 500. A little later there was some south in the wind and I noticed quite a movement of Scoters (too far to distinguish which kind) flying to the eastward far out from shore, between three and four miles. I also saw several bunches of American Scoters, but the great proportion of the fowl were White Wings and Surf. The former made no shooting, avoiding our boats. I was quite pleased with the performance of my little 20-gauge today, as I succeeded in killing my fowl as far and as well as I used to do with my heavier guns. Saw half a dozen of Great Northern Divers and eight Red-throated Divers flying eastward on migration; also saw four or five flocks of Brant flying east on migration, fifteen in one flock, about 35 (estimated) in the aggregate. The wind came S.W. very fresh later, and as it became too rough and not many fowl were flying at the time, we came on shore about eleven o'clock A.M., since which it has breezed up still harder and so continued all the rest of the day. Only a few Scoters flew to the eastward. I saw quite a number of American Herring Gulls today, I should say fifteen, both old and young (gray). I also saw *one* old Black-backed Gull.

G. H. M.

9 Surf Scoters
7 White Wing Scoters
2 American Scoters
1 Old Squaw
2 American Herring Gulls

21

West Island, R. I.
April 18, 1892

Up at quarter of four A.M. Very little air moving, N.W. Sea calm. Anchored off the Clump. The *traders* (bedded Scoters) came down *from* the eastward as usual at daybreak, which gave us all the shooting we had for the day. About 7½ A.M. the wind changed to east, and later about southeast. No Scoters (except an occasional flock) flew to the eastward. At 1.30 o'clock P.M. a movement of Scoters took place from the west to the east and continued until dark. The birds flew high until towards the latter part of the afternoon. There were some flocks of a hundred estimated birds, but it was impossible to distinguish to which kind each flock belonged, as many of them were far out. There were a *good many* and I think the *most* of them were Surf Scoters. I should estimate about 1,000 birds flew to the east since 1.30 P.M. Last night at 6.24 o'clock there were *seven* Cormorants on the Rock that I could see. At 5.22 this P.M. there were about 30, and at six o'clock and fifteen minutes there were 40 or 50. The north rock was covered with them first and then the later ones went on top of the high rock. Before alighting I could see them flying around on the inshore side of the Rock, and I saw seven alight almost simultaneously. This P.M. while on the Island, I saw a bird in the water which looked strange. I put the telescope on it, but as it soon dove I did not have as long a time as I would have liked. The bird looked like a Goosander, but not quite so large. Its head was dark, with a crest like a hooded Merganser, without the white. There was a long whitish line running from the eye backwards curving down a little towards the back of the neck. The back reminded me of a drake Golden-eye. The breast was white. I thought it might have been a Smew. I ran for my gun, jumped into a boat and started for it, but when I neared the spot I could see nothing of it. It was diving when I saw it first as well as last. I was exceedingly sorry not to have been

able to obtain it.[1] I saw only a very few Herring Gulls today, and only saw two or three Great Northern Divers flying east on migration. I did very well with my 20-gauge again today, shooting seventeen Scoters which I saved, besides others shot down. We expected Geo. Kendall today, but he did not put in an appearance.

G. H. M.

3 Old Squaws
2 American Scoters
10 Surf Scoters
6 White Wing Scoters

21

West Island, R. I.
April 19, 1892

We were off the Clump just before sunrise. It was a moderate calm morning, with a little air from the N.W. The "traders" came as usual from the east, and G. H. M. secured ten of them. Seeing a lobsterman, he "spoke" him and arranged to have him carry us over to the "Cormorant Rock," three quarters of a mile from Sachuset Point, and three and a half miles to the west of West Island. We started about nine o'clock A.M. and in an hour were on the Rock. Here we remained until sunset. These low-lying black rocks have been for a great many years (twenty-one to my own knowledge) the roosting place of "Cormorants," and the only place I know of in New England, except the "Graves" outside of Boston Harbor, Mass. Ever since I have been here this spring as well as in former years I have watched them through the large telescope as they sat on the Rock. I have a great many times planned to go there, but have never been until today; for it requires just such weather in order to land on the Rock, as also to get back to West Island before dark. The rocks are of small area, the apex being about thirty or forty

[1] P. S. After talking with Mr. William Brewster of Cambridge, Mass., regarding this bird, we both came to the conclusion that it was a Hooded Merganser.

feet square. This is covered with lime or guano, with three or four greenish looking pools of water a few feet, which have been the receptacle of the drainage. In some places the guano was two inches thick, in others only one eighth. Most of the projections of rock which served as good standing places for the Cormorants were worn smooth, showing a long occupancy by these birds. On the very top I found a dead Glaucous Gull about two days old. During the greater part of the day but few Cormorants came, and in all I saw six of the *Common* Cormorant (*P. carbo*); all the others were the Double-crested, and in beautiful plumage. Of these last I believe we had come to the vicinity of the rock one hundred and fifty. I *counted* 60 in one flock, twenty-five in another, 18 in another, and many other flocks of seven or eight down to one. I did not see *one common* Cormorant *mixed* in with any of the flocks of the Double-crested, the few of the former we did see, being by themselves. On the Rock I found large numbers of round balls, masses of glutin, fish bones, etc.; one of them had a crab or the shell (size of a quarter of a dollar). I also picked up a part of an eel, both of which I think the Cormorants disgorged (like the owls). Some of those we wounded disgorged, and in one instance a Herring Gull came along and picked up and swallowed an eel one of them disgorged. I also took out of the throat of one (shot dead) an eel which must have been 10 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter (from the head of which down for three or four inches had been eaten off). I also took smaller ones from the throats of two of the others. All the eels had their heads bitten or digested off. While in the throat all the eels rested there in the form of a loop, or rather like a yoke, the round part nearest the mouth. The eel I found on the Rock also had the head missing. The bones which were in the balls (ejected) seemed also to be entirely eel bones. I also took out of the throat of another of the Cormorants an eel which measured sixteen inches long and about one inch in diameter. This eel was perfect, head and all, and rested full length in the throat of the bird,

not being in the form of a loop as in the others. It had been swallowed head first, the tail of the eel being near the bird's mouth. There was of course considerable odor around the premises. I saw one alight. The movement was easy and graceful and the bird stood erect. When wounded on the water the neck is lifted up to its full height with the bill invariably pointed nearly perpendicularly. They are great divers, and swimmers, and most difficult to retrieve under such circumstances. I shot one of the Common Cormorants, the only one killed, but as it fell on the windward side of the Rocks the surf drove it into a crack in the rocks where it was impossible to obtain it. When coming to the Rock they usually fly all around it, and in many cases are apt to first alight in the water before flying up to roost on the Rock. At about two o'clock P.M. the wind came around from N.W. to Southwest. It was a moderate warm and beautiful day. We reached West Island about 7.20 o'clock P.M. after a most enjoyable day. I noticed roosting spots were usually selected where the excrement could be shot out backward down an inclined plane, such places having the largest deposit. The great quantity of the birds did not come to the Rock until quarter of six, and the most of them came from the eastward, although some came from all directions, even from the land side. The movement *from* the east surprised me, as I have seen none pass West Island while I have been shooting off the Point, so I must come to the conclusion that they came from the Seconnet River. They apparently leave the Rock about sunrise, as I have seen a few coming from that direction about that time. My boatman told me he saw them on the Cormorant Rock during March. Considering they are very rarely disturbed, I call them quite shy. I noticed one fact, that in flying about the Cormorants made no noise with their wings, neither did I hear them utter a sound during the whole day. It may be truly said they came and went *silently*.

G. H. M.

10 Scoters
2 Dusky Ducks
1 Herring Gull
5 Double-crested Cormorants, *P. dilophus*

P.S. There was absolutely no migration of Scoters today. I however saw eight American Eiders; they were all birds in immature plumage. They alighted near the Cormorant Rock, on which I was located.

West Island, R. I.
April 20, 1892

We were up at quarter of four A.M. again this morning. It was a beautiful calm warm morning. The vane pointed N.W. but there was scarcely a ripple on the water. We anchored off the Clump. There were fewer traders than usual flying from the east towards the west, and one reason is because we had shot about seventy-five of them. I only saw a dozen small bunches of Scoters (mostly White Wings) flying towards the east, and they were far out from shore. The wind came S.W., gentle breeze, about eight o'clock A.M. Still up to noon there has been no sign of any migration. Very few Scoters have gone east, up to date, as far as I have been able to note. Apparently they are very late this year. This is certainly a most delightful, warm sunny day, like summer, and West Island appears to its best advantage, and is just as delightful a spot to me *today* as it was twenty-one years ago, and, I doubt not, it will ever have the same charm for me. It has been breezing up fresher, but not much wind, during the afternoon, but there has been no movement of birds to the eastward except an occasional flock. Those seen were flying low. At noon we looked with the telescope to see if the Cormorants had come back. We saw about 18 as near as we could make out, of the Double-crested, sitting all together on the highest part of the rock; so I am glad we did not frighten them. I saw five or six Loons (Great Northern Divers) flying

east on migration today about seventy-five yards high. Four of them were in company. Saw also a few Herring Gulls, mostly *gray* ones.

G. H. M.

2 Surf Scoters
1 American Scoter
2 White Winged Scoters

West Island, R. I.
April 21, 1892

Up at the usual hour, $3\frac{3}{4}$ A.M. It was a quiet Southwest morning, about calm, and warm. We anchored off the High Rock. The traders did not come along as early as usual this morning, and there were very few of them. I only saw three or four flocks of White Wings and the same number of Surf Scoters flying to the eastward on migration. About ten A.M. what little air there was seemed to be S.East, but it still remains calm. G. H. M. made a fine shot at a large (11 lbs. by weight) speckled Great Northern Diver, hit on side of head with a double B shot from the 20 bore? We go to Boston this noon, and there is no knowing when we shall be here again. There has been *no* defined migration of *any* of the Scoters toward the east up to date, except the flight on the 4th inst.

G. H. M.

1 Great Northern Diver (by G. H. M.), 11 lbs.
7 White Wing Scoters
1 American Scoter

At 2 o'clock the wind hauled S.E., light, with rain, which continued the rest of the day and evening.

Of the eighty-two birds obtained on this trip G. H. M. shot all but about a dozen of them with his little 20-gauge gun.

Nantucket, Mass., May 1, 1892

I drove out this morning as far as the Long Pond. There was a very strong South by West wind blowing. I saw two or

three Bartramian Sandpipers on the Ram Pasture, also saw about fifty Scaup Ducks (*A. m. nearctica*), as also some Red-breasted Mergansers in the Hummock Pond, where I also saw some Old Squaws and one Piping Plover on the beach, and a small white gull, white with pearl mantle, which I did not recognize or secure. I also saw about twenty Black Ducks. I saw a number of Old Squaws, in the Long Pond, which had scarce turned at all black. Also saw some in the Miacomet Pond. In the afternoon I drove out west again over pretty much the same ground. Saw a pair of Bartramian Sandpipers in Gideon's Valley and shot one with each barrel. At the Hummock Pond outside the south head I saw about forty Red Phalaropes, of these I shot eleven, and one Northern Phalarope (now in Wm. Brewster's and C. F. Batchelder's collections). I might have obtained more. They were mostly in the gray plumage, but by picking them out I managed to secure about half red-breasted ones or nearly so. They are a very active and graceful bird. I did not see them dive, or hear them utter a sound. They were feeding among the breakers which were rolling in on the beach. One of the Life Saving Station men told me that he saw he should think nearly two hundred of them on the last day of April within a mile and a half of where I shot these. I only saw the one Northern (*P. lobatus*). It was an adult female in full plumage, a beauty. I think the Bartrams intended breeding here. Mr. Eugene Clisby has several times found the nest and young and eggs. (Weather cool.) Mr. Marcus Dunham has seen them breeding on Tuckernuck Island also.

G. H. M.

2 Bartramian Sandpipers
1 Northern Phalarope
11 Red Phalarope

Notes

Nantucket, May 1, 1892. There were *four* Turnstones standing on the western jetty this morning. They were in

full adult plumage. On the 10th of April, 1892, cannot fix the *exact* date, Mr. Sidney Fisher saw a Hudsonian Curlew and heard it call. It was flying west and had probably been here for several days.

G. H. M.

Tuckernuck Island, Mass.
May 10, 1892

The Wilson's Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls arrived today. They came on in large flocks (the former), 50 in a flock estimated, high up. It was a heavy southeast rainstorm. They came drifting along sideways before it. They scaled around before alighting. Some passed over without stopping. The Black-headed Gulls (not Bonaparte's) also appeared for the first time today for this spring, four of them. The first Black-bellied Plover was noted here on the 9th of May. The first Knot was noted on the 11th May, only one seen. On the 19th, 20th and 21st, on the first day as well as the two others, the wind was northeast, and it rained and stormed the last two days. There were about one hundred and fifty Black-bellied Plover and about three hundred Turnstones landed and were all over the upland. On the 26th I was on Nantucket and left for Tuckernuck about 8 o'clock A.M. On the way over I saw about a dozen Phalaropes, about half of the Red and the other half Northern. I secured one of the former and two of the latter, both nearly in the adult plumage. On arriving on Tuckernuck today, May 26th, 1892, I walked all over the Island in order to see what birds were on the Island. I saw in all about fifty Black-bellied Plover and about seventy-five Turnstone. The wind was S.West, good breeze. It would seem as if most of the birds had left, but I shall be better able to judge by tomorrow afternoon. There was no opportunity to do much.

4 Turnstones
3 Black-bellied Plover

2 Northern Phalaropes
1 Red Phalarope
3 Peeps

P.S. I saw two distinct times today two different Black-bellied Plover eat a Cod worm (*Nereis*), which was four inches long as near as I could estimate. They find them on the sand flats at low tide. There have been some two hundred Red and Northern Phalaropes, mostly of the former, between Tuckernuck and Muskeget Islands during the third week in May. There have also been a good many on the south side of the Island during May. There have never been so many noticed here before, and I think they must have been living about here since May 1st, when I shot them.

Tuckernuck Island
May 27, 1892

I was up at four o'clock A.M. The weather was lowering, and it had rained very hard in the night, with wind S. to S.W. I went into a stand close to Marcus Dunham's house. There were but few birds moving up to noon, when I came in to dinner with eleven Turnstones and two Black-bellied Plover. In the afternoon I went over to Mr. Chappel's, where there were some birds. I saw about 35 Black-bellied Plover and some twenty Turnstones. I built a stand of stones. The birds, having been shot here, would not decoy very well, and it was long shooting at the Black-breast. Here I shot four Black-breast and seven Turnstones. Wind strong S.W. all day. Two of the Black-bellied Plover had only a very few black feathers on the breast, and two were coal black.

G. H. M.

17 Turnstones
6 Black-bellied Plover (*S. squatarola*)

23
1 Pigeon (tame)

Tuckernuck Island
May 28, 1892

I got up at four o'clock and after breakfast I went down to Chappel's house, dug a stand in a field near by, and set my decoys. There was a W.S.W. good breeze, hard at times. The first four or five shots I did not hit anything. Then I shot everything that came, until the last bird, which I missed with both barrels. Of the Black-bellied Plover shot today four or five were crow black on the lower parts, a number had *scarcely any* black feathers on the breast, and others were half black and half white intermixed. I had a most pleasant day's shooting and enjoyed it very much. I saw three Red-breast (Knots) yesterday and one today. Two of them were very red on the breast. I came home to dinner at 1 o'clock P.M. and went out again to the same stand after, but I only saw four or five birds and got none. Late in the P.M. at another part of the Island (east) I saw six more Black-breast.

G. H. M.

14 Black-bellied Plover
2 Turnstones
1 Pigeon (tame)

17

Tuckernuck Island
May 29, 1892

I was up at quarter of four this morning and went over to the stand I occupied yesterday. The morning was warm with South west wind light. Up to half past seven A.M. I had only seen five Black-breast and three Turnstone. Of the former only a pair came to the decoys, which I shot. I refused to fire at the Turnstones, as I had all I wished. One of them remained among the decoys for half an hour and remained where he alighted the whole time. The only movement he made was to move his head and to open and shut his bill as if he had the pip. I gave it up at 7.30 A.M. and returned to the

house, packed up all my things, and came back to Nantucket in about two hours of smooth pleasant sailing. I am sure there have not been over fifty or sixty Black-breast on the Island since the day of my arrival, and there is no shooting now at anything. I have seen every day in the North Pond three pairs of Bonaparte Gulls in full plumage. Their cry or note is complicated and very peculiar. The Black-bellied Plover on Tuckernuck Island this spring have not been feeding on the flats as much as in former years, keeping more on the upland this spring than usual. I have no reason for this.

G. H. M.

2 Black-bellied Plover

Nantucket, May 31, 1892

I started after breakfast and drove over all the western ground, visiting the various ponds as far as the end of Smith's Point. The wind was light southwest. At the Point, on top of the house I occupied last December when shooting Old Squaws, a crow had built a nest between the ridge pole and chimney. There were four fresh eggs in it, which I obtained after climbing up. I only saw two Black-bellied Plover, about a dozen Turnstones, and a few Peeps. In the Miacomet Pond I saw a male Old Squaw. I did not get a shot, and returned home by three and a half o'clock P.M. It was low tide at the Creeks, so if there had been any birds around I think I should have seen them. I hear there is a large flock of Black-bellied Plover on Pocomo Meadows, and may drive up there tomorrow and see for myself. It has been quite foggy about all day.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, June 1, 1892

I drove out with the children to the (?) Pond, then to the Hummock Pond, and home. I saw nothing until I reached the latter place, where there were a few Turnstones and I

shot three of them but lost one. After dinner I drove out east to Pocomo Meadows. Here I saw a dozen Black-bellied Plover. I set decoys and had in all seven birds, Blackbreast, come at different times. It was blowing very fresh S.W. and although I fired seven or eight times, when I expected to kill the birds, I did not get one, and I was much irritated and broken up by it, and when I drove home I had gone a mile before I discovered I had left my gun and shovel, so I had to return for them. I saw and heard a Hudsonian Curlew (a lone bird) flying towards the east well up in the air. I also heard him whistle twice. I saw a Bartramian Sandpiper this morning which tried to alight on a bush (at the top of it) but it was no go.

G. H. M.

2 Turnstones

Muskeget Island, Mass.
August 2, also August 3, 1892

I started yesterday P.M. to come here, with a *very* strong Northeast wind, and I reached Tuckernuck in the quickest time I ever made, one hour and twenty minutes from the Nantucket wharf to the moorings. As it was blowing hard, and late in the afternoon, I concluded to sleep at Mr. Isaac Dunham's and go over in the morning, which I did, having a nice quiet time overnight. Mrs. and Mr. John Sandsbury, who were there protecting the Terns, put me up. I took a walk over to the South Point beach opening, a tough walk with my rubber boots, basket of decoys, rubber coat, ammunition, etc. I found that *Sterna hirundo* had increased to a great degree over the number here last summer. I saw about eight Knots and shot one of them; also saw half a dozen Turnstones, one Sanderling, and three or four Peeps and some hundred Black Ducks; also about fifty Hudsonian Curlew. There were *quite* a number of the Black-headed or Laughing Gulls. These gulls are more abundant the past two years than formerly, and breed in colonies on the Island.

From two to five eggs (which are twice as large as those of the Common Tern) are found in the nests, which latter are about the size of a saucer inside,and composed of twigs, grass, eel grass, interwoven, making quite a well constructed nest. These nests are *well* concealed in tufts of tall grass two feet high and in the bunches of wild peas. I saw large numbers of the young of *Sterna hirundo* unable to fly; also some of their eggs which were good. The young hide away and will not move until the hand is placed on them. Some of those young ones I disturbed on the beach pushed boldly out on the water for quite a distance, swimming back again after a while. The number of the *adults* and birds of *last summer* is simply beyond estimate. The Hudsonian Curlew simply come to this Island to pass the night, arriving from four P.M. to seven P.M. They all apparently come *from* the eastward, I judge from Nantucket. I shot one. I saw seven Red-breasted Snipe (Dowitch) and shot two, but no other shore birds than those enumerated were noted. I returned to Nantucket on the morning of the 4th. I caught two toads while here and saw another. I sent them to the American Museum of Natural History, New York, as they seemed different from the ordinary ones. They made a sort of peeping noise during the early evening while in confinement. The Black-headed Gulls also breed on Gravel Island. I also saw numbers of the Least Tern. The little ants kill many of the downy young Terns, which they cover and bite, and their sufferings find vent in their cries. Arctic Terns were also abundant. The Knot I shot had some red on the neck and breast. I was *very* sorry not to be able to secure more of these birds at this season.

G. H. M.

2 Black-headed Gulls, *C. atricilla*
2 Red-breasted Snipe
1 Knot
1 Hudsonian Curlew
2 Small Yellowlegs

8

Nantucket, August 20, 1892

The first Golden Plover of this season (a small flock of 15) were noted on Aug. 18. I came down from Boston yesterday P.M. and this afternoon I drove all over the western ground. The wind was strong N.E. and the night previous was very thick fog. I saw one Black-bellied Plover with some black on the breast and shot it. I also saw *five* Golden Plover in ones and twos. I fired at two of them near enough but unfortunately missed them. I remained out until 5.30 P.M., but saw no Golden Plover come on. There is a very large tract of burnt ground west of the Hummock Pond and east of the Sheep Pond. The *first* Golden Plover shot (a lone bird) on Aug. 21.

G. H. M.

1 Black-bellied Plover

P.S. There must have been a storm at sea, for the surf was high and breaking over the beaches and running into the ponds.

Nantucket, August 21, 1892

S. Chase and I were up at 3.30 A.M., and at 4.30 were driving out towards the west. We visited all the places for birds, and burnt ground. The wind was north, fresh, and overcast until 9.30 o'clock A.M. when it cleared up. No Golden Plover landed, although large numbers passed over the town last night. They were heard whistling all night as flocks passed over. This is the first movement this season. *None* stopped, and I did not expect any. We saw *three or four*, two Hudsonian Curlew, four Winter Yellowlegs, one Black-breast Plover (some black on its breast), one Hudsonian Godwit (with some red on its breast), an immature bird, and one Red-breasted Snipe. Also about a dozen or fifteen Bartramian Sandpiper. *All* the birds were very shy and we could not get within shooting distance of most of them. We reached home at 11 o'clock noon. There are two pieces (small) of burnt

ground adjacent to the Reedy and Mioxe Ponds. The surf was very high today, same as yesterday. In the P.M. the wind changed to W. by South, and it is clear and pleasant and warmer.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Godwit
1 Red-breasted Snipe
1 Large Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 23, 1892

I drove all over the western ground this P.M. but did not see anything. The wind was light, South by East. Large fires are going around the Madequecham Valley and the smoke covers the town. I shot a Canadian Nuthatch this P.M., only one seen.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 25, 1892

Blowing fresh S. by E. this forenoon. More moderate in the afternoon. At 2¼ P.M. I drove out, going as far as the Hummock Pond. On the way out I shot a Bartramian Sandpiper going before the wind, a long shot and high up. On striking the ground the whole of the bird's breast was skinned. On returning to the Reedy Pond, a flock of 22 Golden Plover came and lit at the head of the Pond. I drove within 45 yards and fired at them, shooting four, one of which I lost. They are the *first* of the season except the lone bird shot on the 21st. The weather has been thick outside, with the appearance of some bad weather out at sea. The barometer is 29.75 and falling, but it is calm, and I cannot make up my mind whether we are to have anything out of it or not. The fires are all out and we have a *great* quantity of burnt ground this year.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 26, 1892

S. Chase and I were up at 3.30 A.M. and were driving out about 4.30 o'clock. We went directly to the burnt ground just west of the Hummock Pond. Up to 3.30 the wind was S.E., at 4.10 A.M. a thunder and lightning squall with *severe* rain, and wind was N. by East. The rain continued until about 8 o'clock A.M., and wind hauled N.E., moderate and warm. About one o'clock P.M. the wind hauled East and it commenced to rain again, having stopped from 8 o'clock A.M. until this time, with the exception of a few drops. We saw one flock of 15, one of nine, and one of about twelve, and a single one or two Golden Plover. I do not think any birds landed, the above having already been here. We arrived home at 12 o'clock noon. We saw seven Jack Curlew and about ten Black Ducks. At 4 o'clock P.M. it is blowing and storming harder than ever, with wind East.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Golden Plover

P.S. It blew very hard from the N.E. at rate of 37 miles an hour all the P.M. and evening, so hard the steamboat did not come. It rained a large share of the P.M. A *large number* of Golden Plover landed *tonight*. The second large flight of this season.

Nantucket, August 27, 1892

Chase and I started out a little after 4 o'clock A.M. It was *very* thick, with wind N.E., with a little rain. We went to the large tract of burnt ground south of the Kimball farm. Although we saw some three hundred Golden Plover flying, they made no shooting for us, the birds not coming up our way. At noon we picked up and drove to the western ground, but saw no birds until we came to the burnt land west of the Hummock Pond. We set out here, but did not get a shot, although we saw a good many Plover. Our friends Mr. Long

and Mr. Ackley shot 42 here today. Altogether we only shot eleven and got decidedly *left* today. The wind backed up to N. by West in the P.M., continuing thick, almost rain at times. It was curious that the Plover on this ground would not decoy to any one but Long and Ackley. Late in the P.M. and this evening the wind is about North,and very thick all about the Island, and it looks as if we were not through with this weather. I do not expect to see any of the Plover leave, although I did see one flock of about 50 go to sea just before eleven o'clock. I know of about 100 birds shot today and there are a number of the gunners I have not heard from. Take it all in all I have seen more birds *today* than for the past three years *all* put together. My great regret was that I was so unfortunate in getting properly located and calling the birds up to me. It seemed that, go where I would and do what I would, I could not succeed. I only had one flock to me during the entire day, and Chase was equally unfortunate. I shall hope to do better tomorrow, for I do not think any of the birds will leave, as the weather is so *thick* and quite a strong breeze blowing, although it is north, which is fair for them to migrate on. About 175 birds in all were shot today, and 100 more on Tuckernuck Island. Two Eskimo Curlew were shot today, and two more seen on Tuckernuck Island.

G. H. M.

11 American Golden Plover

P.S. About all the Golden Plover *left* on the *afternoon* and *night* of the 27th. The weather was so unsettled that I thought they would not go, althought the wind was fair.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 28, 1892

I was up at 3 o'clock, and driving out to the western burnt ground with Chase at 4.10 o'clock A.M. The wind was north, increasing, very misty with rain at times during the greater part of the day, which was cloudy and overcast. On reaching

the ground we found *five* men ahead of us. After remaining an hour, during which only one flock of about 35 Golden Plover came on to the burnt ground, and out of which Chase and I shot five, we picked up the decoys and drove over to Gideon's Valley, where we remained two or three hours, seeing several flocks which were so shy from having been repeatedly shot at they would not pay the slightest attention to the decoys, although passing within a hundred and fifty yards of them. The only shot we had here was at a lone Hudsonian Curlew, which G. H. M. shot dead at 80 long paces from his stand with No. 7 shot and his 20 bore. From here we again picked up the decoys and drove back to the burnt ground. We were first at reaching there a little after noon. Here we remained until about five o'clock without getting a shot, and only seeing three birds. The Island is being traversed in every direction by gunners today, and I have interviewed a large number of them. The most of them had no birds, a few two or three. The largest number was 9, which *three* men had. It was the opinion of all that about all the Plover had gone. I have never in my life been so thoroughly convinced how impossible it is for birds to *remain* on the island before. Sportsmen with teams chase them up unceasingly and they cannot get a chance to rest or feed. They therefore depart at earliest possible moment. I noticed peculiarities in the Golden Plover I never saw before. On the morning after they had landed (Aug. 27) instead of flying *near* the ground, coursing over it as it were, they kept well up in the air from thirty to one hundred yards. They consequently would not decoy well. I attribute this to a restless feeling and unwillingness to remain and desire to keep on their migration, which was resumed *much earlier* than the weather conditions warranted. I noticed another thing which was unusual. The birds this time led to windward, all the movement of the flocks being in this direction while they were on the Island. Usually it is just the reverse; in fact, I

never noticed them do it before. As a result I did not get my usual number of birds out of this landing, my previous experience having been set at naught, it being the *exception* to the rule in this case. The only birds now left are a few scattered bunches, and one lot of 75 to 100 in a preserved lot (Kimball farm). The weather was cold, with wind *very* fresh from the North, cloudy and spitting rain more or less all day. I saw today, at the South Head of the Hummock Pond outside, two white and two gray Herring Gulls.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover
1 Hudsonian Curlew

Nantucket, August 30, 1892

Chase and I started after breakfast and drove by way of Gibbs Pond to Pocomo Meadows, where we set the decoys and remained until four o'clock P.M. We saw about a dozen Greater Yellowlegs and three or four of the smaller variety; about 50 Golden Plover, and seven or eight Black Ducks. We only had a shot or two, and consequently did not do much of anything.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover
1 Yellowleg

Nantucket, August 31, 1892

Harry Dunham and I drove all over the southern burnt ground and set the decoys near Touchee Pond. We only saw two Golden Plover. On the way home we looked into the Worth pasture, where we counted about 100 Golden Plover. These birds have been living here, and the pasture is preserved. We reached home about 2.30 o'clock P.M. We did not get a shot today.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 1, 1892

Chase and I drove out west and set the decoys at south head of Hummock Pond. We only saw about a dozen Plover

altogether. One of our friends was on the burnt ground at the westward and he says he saw an Eskimo Curlew and shot it. The wind was first west by north, then west, from which point it backed around to northeast. I saw one Pale-belly today.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover
3 Pectoral Sandpipers
1 Turnstone

P.S. On Sept. 2 I saw the Eskimo shot above. It was rather a lean bird.

Nantucket, September 3, 1892

The first flock of Pale-bellies (young Golden Plover) of the season (a flock of about twenty or twenty-five) appeared today. Two were shot.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 5, 1892

Yesterday it was cloudy, with wind S.E., then East, then N.E. It commenced to rain in the P.M. At 10 o'clock P.M. it was blowing and raining hard. During the night it was thick, with wind N.N.E., with rain at intervals. From 3 o'clock A.M. until 10 o'clock A.M. it blew *very* hard, with rain at times. Chase and I were on the western ground at daylight. The wind kept backing until it reached S.W. in the P.M., and to-night it is clear as a bell and bright moonlight. To our surprise *no birds* landed; the few we saw had been living here. We first set decoys in Gideon's Valley. Then we went to the eastern burnt ground, and then to the vicinity of Gibbs Pond. We saw about 100 of the birds which are living here, but they would pass within 100 yards of the decoys without coming to them. We did not get home until 5½ o'clock P.M. I go to Boston tomorrow.

G. H. M.

5 Golden Plover
1 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
1 Quail (introduced)

Nantucket, September 6, 1892

Marcus Dunham shot five Eskimo Curlew today on Tuckernuck Island, and Charles E. Snow shot one of three on same day on Nantucket.

G. H. M.

Nantucket
September 11 and 12, 1892

Coming down from Boston last evening I thought I would take a drive after breakfast. I returned by one o'clock P.M., having seen only seven Golden Plover. I went to a burnt patch near Gibbs Pond. On the same afternoon after dinner I drove *west*, having driven east in the morning. I saw forty or fifty Golden Plover in Gideon's Valley, but they have been living on the Island and are wild. Passing over the south head of the Hummock Pond to the burnt piece there, I drove up to four and fired at them but secured none. Today the 12th, Chase and I drove out after breakfast to where I was yesterday morning. Here we saw 13 Plover, but they departed and we never saw any more of them. After waiting with coys set for two hours, we took up and drove over to and searched the southern burnt ground. We only saw two Plover and did not get either. Afterwards we drove west as far as Gideon's Valley but did not see anything. This makes two days for me without a bird. Guess I shall not go tomorrow. Wind S.E., fair breeze.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 15, 1892

The wind was strong yesterday P.M. S.E. At midnight it was blowing at rate of 35 miles an hour and raining hard and so continued until near morning when the wind changed to N.W. light. Chase and I drove out east about ten o'clock A.M. We saw about fifty of the "Kimball lot birds" in the Nobadeer Valley, but failed to get a shot at them, although

three came to Chase, who secured one. We soon left here for the Madequecham Valley, where at the lower end we saw about 13 Golden Plover. Chase drove up to them and got one. Keeping on up the Valley we saw two bunches of Pale-bellies, about 30 and 25 birds respectively. The larger flock went up into the air and I think went off on migration. We set out the decoys here and remained until five P.M., Chase meanwhile driving over to the burnt ground near Gibbs Pond. We saw in all about two hundred Plover. A good share of these were from the Kimball lot, out of which they had been driven by shooting at them. All of these birds are very shy and very fat, and those we secured were shot out of the bunches at long range from the back part of the stand, for they would not come up close to the decoys. The others were apparently *new* birds which came on last night, especially the Pale-bellies, of which we shot two. Chase saw three Eskimo Curlew and shot one, near Gibbs Pond. G. H. M. shot seven Golden Plover while Chase was gone, besides losing three others which were also shot down. We did very much better than we had anticipated, and were quite pleased with the result.

G. H. M.

22 Golden Plover
1 Eskimo Curlew

Nantucket, September 16, 1892

Chase and I started out early and drove to the burnt ground near Gibbs Pond. Leaving him there, I continued on to the Madequecham Valley where I was yesterday. I was all set just after sunrise. I only saw one bird up to nine o'clock. I remained until 10.30 A.M., having one flock of about thirty Golden Plover come by the decoys at long range. From this flock I shot out seven with my 20-gauge, but three got up from the ground and flew away, so I only saved four. I then went over to Chase, who only had one, and brought him back to where I had been, and we set out again and remained until three o'clock P.M., but did not get a shot. The

wind was S.W. I saw about one hundred Plover in all, and Chase saw about the same number, so we concluded they were the same birds. We shot one Pale-belly today.

5 Golden Plover G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 18, 1892

We did not go out yesterday, but were up at 3.30 A.M. this morning. We drove out to the Gibbs Pond burnt ground and set out. Here we remained until nine o'clock, only seeing nine Plover and getting none. We then went over to Gibbs Pond and made a stand in the bushes near the beach at the northeast side of the Pond. Here we remained until nearly two o'clock P.M., without getting a shot, and only seeing about fifty birds. We had been told they frequented this spot to drink. We then pulled up and drove by way of Madequecham Valley over the eastern burnt ground without seeing a bird, but concluded to set out in the Valley east of the Nobadeer Valley; but nothing appeared until nearly five o'clock P.M., when a flock of about thirty Pale-bellies came by. Chase shot two of them. Shortly after, six came and we shot three (one Pale-belly). It was a most tiresome and unsatisfactory day.

5 Golden Plover G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 25, 1892

I have been in Boston during the past week, in which period the weather has been clear, pleasant, with northerly to westerly winds. As a consequence we have had no fresh arrivals of Golden Plover worth recording, if any. This A.M. Mr. Chase and I drove out to the burnt ground west of Hummock Pond. Here we saw about a dozen Plover and shot two. Crossing the beach at the south head, we again saw the above flock of Plover alighted, as also five small Yellowlegs, but we did not succeed in getting a shot, although I set the decoys, while Chase went around them. Keeping on to the Valley beyond the Nobadeer, we saw a

flock of about forty Pale-bellies. I set out, and Chase drove around them. They came by at long range and G. H. M. shot out four. Keeping on to the Madequecham Valley we drove up and shot at long range one Plover from a flock of nine. We saw seven more as we drove up the Valley. Then we drove over to burnt piece near Gibbs Pond, where there were six Plover, and Chase fired at them but strange to say did not get a bird. We then returned to the lower end of Madequecham Valley where we had seen a flock of about fifty Plover alight. (It may have been the same flock we saw in the Valley beyond Nobadeer.) G. H. M. set decoys, and C. drove around them. The latter fired at them and shot out one but could not find it. They came by G. H. M. wide out, but with both barrels of his little 20 bore (and they were mostly if not all killed with the first) he shot out nine Pale-bellies, but lost one. They fell just 57 paces from where he shot. We remained around here until 4.30 P.M., when a thick fog came in, so we gave it up and drove home, having seen one flock of eight and one of a dozen Plover. We have seen 100 Plover today (mostly Pale-bellies) unless we have seen the same birds more than once. The Plover shot were all Pale-bellies but three. On the 27th inst., at about four o'clock P.M., a flock of Plover were seen flying from the northeast towards the west. They were not very high up. From this date up to October 1st, clear and pleasant weather prevailed, with westerly and northerly and northwesterly winds. Heard of no birds landing or passing, and I judge the greater part if not most of the migration is over for this autumn going south.

G. H. M.

16 Golden Plover

Muskeget Island, Mass.
March 26, 1893

S. Chase, Geo. Kendall and I left Boston on the 22d. When off Cape Poge Light we saw some two to three hundred

White Wing Scoters. During the rest of the trip to Nantucket we saw scarcely any fowl. It commenced to snow with wind S.E. soon after dark on the 22d and next morning the ground was covered with snow, and a thick fog all around the Island. We had to defer going to Muskeget on this account. The next morning, the 24th, we started at 8½ o'clock A.M., with a thick fog, with the intention of stopping at Tuckernuck in order to get the key to the house we were to occupy on Muskeget. But we could not find Tuckernuck, so kept on and after a most tiresome time of it we finally struck Muskeget on the N.E. end and landed about one o'clock P.M. noon. It was pretty cold. We started and walked up to the house and a most discouraging spectacle met our view. The entire sash and window on one side was out, and a light of glass in one of the others, and plastering and dirt covered the floor. The bed-clothes were damp from the house being exposed to the weather, and *very uninviting*. We set to work, however, and fixed it up as best we could, and cleaned it out. Another cleaning the next day made it quite comfortable, as the weather was not severe. On Saturday morning we were up at 3 A.M. and set the Brant decoys in the lagoon on Jenkins Point, with wind S.West. Here we remained until the tide was too low for us to shoot. There was a continuation of the thick fog. We shot down a couple of White Wing Scoters, but did not get them. After dinner I took a walk. I saw four fox sparrows, one robin, one white-bellied swallow flying north on migration, and four or five song and white-throated sparrows. The wind was very light S.W. The fog lifted about two o'clock P.M. and it became pleasant. This brings us to today, the 26th. We arose at 3.30 A.M. and after having breakfast we went over to the shoal near the south opening, and left Sidney, and then Geo. K. and I went over to Adams Island and made a stand on the N.E. end. The wind was North and N. by East. Here we remained until nine and a half o'clock A.M., getting only two or three birds (a Golden-

eye Widgeon and an Old Squaw). I omitted to write that on the afternoon of the 25th S. Chase and I went over to Adams Island and shot two Eider Ducks. I saw today, the 26th, one Piping Plover, and heard it whistle. It is the earliest date in my experience. I also saw in the P.M. one Marsh Hawk in the red plumage flying north. The weather looks like a change and the wind is now nearly East. I think we shall have a storm. It has been a most beautiful clear day and not cold. I collected some of the plants which grow here.

G. H. M.

1 Golden-eye Widgeon
1 Old Squaw
2 American Eider Ducks

P.S. I should estimate the number of Brant living between Muskeget and Tuckernuck at about six hundred; also about the same number or rather more American Eiders. Most of the latter departed March 30th and 31st, 1893.

Muskeget Island
March 27, 1893

We got up at 3.30 A.M., had breakfast, and went over to Adams Island to see if we could get any Eiders. When we started, there was not wind enough to make a ripple on the water, although the little air moving was North. It was a very poor shooting morning. The Eiders did not commence to come inside until very late, no definite movement taking place before six o'clock A.M. Up to eight o'clock we had not had a duck come to us. At this time Sidney and our boatman, Elbert M. Dunham, went over and dug a stand on a small shoal northeast of Gravel Island. Here he remained until near noon, only securing one Eider. He drove off one hundred Eiders which were sitting there when he started. I remained where we first set out, and shot down six dead Eiders but only saved three, as the boat was away taking Geo. K. home, and the tide took them out through the opening. We came home

about half after one. There was a little more breeze during the day from the same point, but it has been a very calm, pleasant and enjoyable day, with the shooting left out. After dinner I walked all over the eastern end of the Island. It has looked like a storm the past two days but it continues pleasant nevertheless. Too pleasant to get any ducks, but there are plenty around, and when the weather is right, I hope we shall get some of them.

G. H. M.

4 American Eiders

P.S. I saw one Short-eared Owl this P.M.

Muskeget Island, March 28, 1893

We turned out as usual at 3.30 A.M. The wind was north, fresh. We sailed over to the south beach and set out for Eiders, but there were very few which passed by us, and S.C. and I obtained only two. G. K. did not go today. We saw a good many in the neighborhood of the wreck of the *Sammy Ford*. As there was no shooting or prospect of any, we concluded to give it up. We were a mile to leeward, and had a strong pull to get back to the house, which we reached at 9.30. At half past twelve it commenced to snow, and continued the rest of the day, and blowing fresh, with wind west by north. Muskeget presents, as I write, a most wintry scene, covered as it is with snow, with the long beach grass standing above it. It may seem lonesome to some, but to me it is pure enjoyment to be here under such conditions and watch the birds from our window and the flaws of wind on the water, and listen to the noise it makes, and we find ourselves both happy and contented. I think it a good situation which leads to such a result. The Brant have been visiting the lagoon today, which makes the prospect of our securing a few better than it has been since we have been here. I saw a few fox-colored sparrows and Shore Larks today, but they seem able to contend with the bad weather.

G. H. M.

2 American Eiders

Muskeget, March 29, 1893

The north by east snowstorm continued throughout the night and when I looked out of the door this morning a most beautiful sight met my view. The morning was clear, and the surrounding islands, covered with snow which reflected the morning sun, made a charming sight. The beach grass was peeping out above the snow, the Song Sparrows and Horned Shore Larks were under our window, and on the beach near the house was a pair of Piping Plover uttering their plaintive note. On the water in sight were the Eiders and Loons and Brant, the latter purring loud enough to be heard for a quarter of a mile. The sunrise was magnificent, as was also the sunset. With the exception of a few clouds in the morning, the day was cloudless, and the temperature reminded me of May. As we intended trying for Brant near the house, we did not get up until six and a half o'clock. We did not have any Brant come near enough to shoot, although two little bunches came within one hundred and fifty yards of our decoys. We did not have a shot today. Our housekeeping takes up considerable time, although primitive. Still we enjoy our meals and the situation. Our utensils being limited have to do treble duty, and it would surprise many to see how *few* things are really necessary to get along comfortably. I like to dwell on our situation and view, the house being within ten yards of the water, and with the full moon reflected therein and lighting up the surrounding islands as well as Muskeget, the note of the waves on the shore as they tumble in from the broad Atlantic make a combination nearly perfect for a reasonable period. The Selkirkian idea of *enforced* solitude is undoubtedly correct, but to one seeking a rest and a change from the cares of city life, it is *in*correct. The wind at six-thirty P.M. is south by east, gentle breeze.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, March 30, 1893

We got up at 3 o'clock A.M. The wind was fresh southeast. We rowed up to South Point shoal, and set out on the south-eastern end or point, for Eiders. They commenced to move about daylight, coming in pairs and three's and four's quite continuously until towards seven o'clock A.M., at which hour the shooting was over. We shot about twenty birds dead but only saved fourteen, as the others went out through the opening opposite to which we were. We then picked up and came back to the house, had something to eat, and then took the Brant decoys and set them out in the lagoon on Jenkins Point with strong S.E. wind. We were all ready at ten-thirty A.M. and remained until 3.30. We shot down twelve Brant and saved nine of them, two of which we saved alive. Geo. Kendall went home this morning and missed a good day's shooting. Saw one Piping Plover.

G. H. M.

13 American Eiders
9 Brant. I kept two Brant alive. One died July 17, the other was alive Oct. 1.
1 Old Squaw

—
23

Muskeget Island Tides

The east tide makes one hour and a half earlier as Muskeget Island than low water at Muskeget Island. The west tide makes one hour earlier than high water on the Bar at Nantucket. The west tide runs out of all the openings, and few fowl can be saved. The east tide is the one which is most advantageous for shooting, and the best conditions are to have the east tide make about 3 P.M., so as to drift the Eiders to the eastward, and as a result they will come inside through the western opening, near which are the best shooting points, and it is best to have the wind from the S. to the S.W. One must have a strong breeze blowing *on* to the *Point* in order to

make the Eiders fly by near enough to shoot from the points as well as to save those killed. Muskeget Island tides and Boston tides are just the same.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, March 31, 1893

We got up at 3 o'clock A.M., had breakfast, and rowed to South Point shoal. The wind was west by north. There were only a few scattering Eiders came in the west opening, say twenty-five in all. We only had two or three long shots, and were back at the house about 8 o'clock A.M., after which Chase went and set the Brant decoys off Jenkins Point, where he remained until about four o'clock without getting a shot. It was very moderate all day, and little chance to do anything. I loafed around the rest of the day, taking a walk in the P.M. We saw but few Eiders today, and some have already left here. We saw all the Brant at one time this P.M., and we had some three hundred off the house. It has been a superb day, like May.

G. H. M.

1 Eider
1 Old Squaw

Muskeget Island, April 1, 1893

Up at 3 o'clock A.M. as usual and went to the shoal near the opening, but only about fifteen Eiders came through, and we did not get any shooting, so we gave it up and were back to the house about 8 o'clock. About noon we went down to the Point near the Club House, for Brant. The wind was fresh S.E. and finally came S.W. The weather was clear and pleasant but cool. April 2.— We go to Nantucket today. The weather is clear, wind very fresh N.W., so we are busy packing up our things.

G. H. M.

1 White Wing Scoter
1 Old Squaw
1 Eider
2 Brant

Nantucket, Mass., August 6, 1893

S. Chase and I drove up to Pocomo Meadows and set decoys, remaining until noon. It was a warm day with southwest breeze. We saw one larger and four smaller Yellowlegs and four Hudsonian Curlew and three Black-bellied Plover. G. H. M. shot one Curlew, which was all the game obtained.

1 Hudsonian Curlew G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 20, 1893

S. Chase and I came down last evening. We were off this A.M. at seven, with lowering sky and southeast wind. We drove from the Miacomet Pond to Further Creek, seeing four Hudsonian Curlew, fifteen or twenty Upland Plover, two Black-breast Plover, about fifteen Black Ducks, three Pectoral Sandpipers. We also saw what we called a flock of about a dozen Golden Plover in the distance. I was told there was such a flock seen on the 18th near that part of the Island where we were. G. H. M. shot down two Bartramian Sandpipers with one barrel as they crossed, but failed to recover either. It has looked like a storm for the past four days but nothing has yet come out of it. About quarter of eight this P.M. it commenced to rain and I saw one small flash of lightning and heard two peals of thunder, but it is very mild as yet. There were several fires going this noon. The Ram Pasture is burned splendidly and we should get some Golden Plover on it before the season closes. G. H. M. shot a Black-breast Plover (a male) which was pretty black on the under parts, a fairly old bird.

G. H. M.

1 Bartramian Sandpiper
1 Black-breasted Plover
1 Pectoral Sandpiper

P.S. It is reported by Mr. Chadwick of Quidnet that a good many Plover passed by the eastern side of Nantucket

on the 16th inst. at the time of the northerly weather, without stopping.

P.S. I think these must have been Black-bellied Plover.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 21, 1893

The weather which for the past four days has looked at intervals like storming became a reality today. It commenced to rain last evening with wind S.E. light. At 9 o'clock and at 2 o'clock P.M. it rained in sheets, but not much wind. When Chase and I got up and drove out over the western ground, it was raining quite hard, and wind increasing, backing all the time, blowing *very* hard, 50 to 60 miles an hour, until it reached N.W. at 4 o'clock P.M. We drove all over the ground, after which we set the decoys and remained several hours on the Ram Pasture, which is nicely burned. At the head(south) of the Hummock Pond, we found a flock of about twenty Red-breast Sandpipers, and shot ten out of it, five of which had quite red breasts. We saw only two Golden Plover and one Dough bird which G. H. M. shot, being the *first* for this season. As it was storming so hard and no plover seemed to have landed, we pulled up and came home, where we arrived at just 12 o'clock noon. The rain stung as it struck our faces, and it was coming down so to speak horizontally. We saw more Peeps today than for several years, and we rarely see Red-breast on Nantucket at this season. It would seem as if there must have been a storm at sea. At 4 o'clock P.M. this afternoon it is blowing *very* hard from north to as far as west. It is still cloudy and looks like more rain, although having stopped for a while.

G. H. M.

1 Eskimo Curlew
3 Bartramian Sandpipers, one of which was a *young* bird which we caught. Although able to fly it was so wet and

used up by the storm that we easily captured it. It was hatched undoubtedly on the Island.
9 Knots

P.S. This storm came up from Cuba and Cape Hatteras following the Gulf Stream. At 10.30 o'clock the wind was up to nearly west, the sky clear and stars out, with no wind. A great deal of rain fell. I could hear of no Plover or Eskimo Curlew shot today, nor any that had landed on any of the islands.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 22, 1893

S. Chase and I arose at three o'clock A.M. and drove out all over the western ground. We only saw the same two Golden Plover that we saw yesterday. They were within a dozen feet of where we saw them yesterday. G. H. M. shot one of them down but failed to find it, not wishing to waste much time in the search. This was the *first* Plover of this season shot by any one. We saw a very large lot of ducks (Black) in the Reedy and Mioxe Ponds. I should say about sixty. The wind was west early, and light, at times it drew from the S.West but remained mostly West. As far as I can learn, no Plover or Dough birds landed on Nantucket during this storm. There were none shot today, although a flock of about a dozen were reported seen in the air. The sea has broken into and filled up all the ponds adjacent to the shore on the southwest side of the Island. The wind backed up to where it is and the weather still looks unsettled, and I expect some more bad weather ere long.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 23, 1893

I did not go out this morning, as there seemed to be little use. The wind was S.E., with rather *more* of the bad look about the weather. After dinner I drove out as far as Gideon's Valley, taking Langdon with me. I heard that there

had been a number of Yellowlegs seen passing over. I saw nine in one bunch. I also saw a few of the Curlew and shot one, but I saw no Golden Plover nor could I hear of any. I am pretty sure it will storm before morning. There have been a few Grass Birds (Pectoral Sandpipers) come on during the past few days.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew
3 Pectoral Sandpipers

Nantucket, August 24, 1893

I got up at 4 o'clock A.M. and with Mr. Long I drove to the Ram Pasture and set out the decoys, remaining until 10 o'clock and ¾ A.M. I only *saw* two Golden Plover, which I shot, and one Black-breasted Plover and two or three Pectoral Sandpipers. We had only reached the Ram Pasture, when it commenced to blow and rain very hard at intervals up to nine o'clock A.M. I think the wind was going at rate of 50 miles an hour. After one o'clock it commenced to clear, although wind still remained East and E. by South, and at ten o'clock it was bright, sunshine, but continuing to blow very hard. The wind has not come around the right way as yet. No birds or Plover or Doughbirds have landed in this storm. I thought there would be a few.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Nantucket, August 26, 1893

The weather was S.E. clear yesterday, and no Plover were recorded as being seen. Today the weather has been S.W. and West at times, good breeze, and clear around the Island, although I think it has been foggy at sea, for in the evening it was quite thick and so remained all night, although the moon was full and rose about 8 o'clock P.M. I was driving over the western ground for four hours during the morning, but only saw one Golden Plover. I have recent accounts

from other parts of the Island, as also Tuckernuck and Muskeget, but *no* Plover or Eskimo Curlew have been seen.

Aug. 27. Foggy all around the Island, with rather warm wind S.E. Late in the P.M. wind South and South by West. *Very* foggy pretty much all day. *No birds today*. There is a severe storm central (Aug. 26, evening 8 P.M.) off the east coast of Florida, coming this way. It has been calm all day, no air moving.

Aug. 28. It was thick all night. Wind S. and S. by West all day, with fog outside Island. Drove all over the western ground early, but did not see any birds. Warm.

Nantucket, August 28, 29, 1893

I have ridden over the western ground each day but have seen no Plover or Eskimo Curlew, for the reason that none have landed. The weather is now clear, and the wind has come around the right way, with every prospect of fair pleasant weather with wind west.

Aug. 31 is beautiful and clear, the moon is full for the past few nights, and the wind west. I am going to Boston for a few days, believing there will be no birds while such conditions prevail. On the 29th I shot a Bartramian Sandpiper which was so fat that it burst open on striking the grass. Warm on the 31st.

G. H. M.

1 Bartramian Sandpiper

Nantucket, August 30 and 31, 1893

I drove over the western grounds on the above dates but saw no birds. The weather was clear and pleasant. On Sept. 1 during the night quite a number of Plover were reported to have been heard as they passed over the town, but *none* stopped. The only Plover here seem to be the flock of thirty-five in the Kimball farm, and another bunch of about one dozen. Loring A. Dunham shot seven at the eastward on Sept. 9, probably from the above lot of birds. I drove all

over the western grounds on Sept. 9 and also on the 10th but saw no birds. The weather clear and pleasant, westerly winds. On Sept. 10 I drove over all the western ground to Smith's Point but did not see a bird. The weather was clear, pleasant, and southwest wind. Two Green-heads were shot from the Kimball farm flock on the 9th. The 11th and 12th were pleasant. I drove out but saw no birds. On the 13th I drove over the western ground and saw 9 Golden Plover. I judge they were part of the Kimball flock. I saw also two Bartramian Sandpipers. Weather calm, wind S. by W. and S.W.

(On a slip of paper between leaves of book)

Nantucket, September 3, 1893

Thirty-five Green-heads[1] seen Ram Pasture, later in day 12 more seen. Think the last have been here for two weeks. The wind was N.W., W. and S.W. The wind on the 4th was the same.

Nantucket, September 16, 1893

Although I have driven out daily since the 13th I have seen nothing until today, when I saw four Golden Plover at the head of the Reedy Pond, and shot two of them. I should say they were fresh arrivals, by their behavior. Besides, the soles of their feet were black; resident birds have them whitish. I also saw two Bartramian Sandpipers and shot one. The wind was strong S. by West. In the P.M. a severe squall with rain and wind came up, but only lasted about three hours, clearing finely in the evening with wind about west. On the morning of the 17th I drove to Pocomo Meadows and Wauwinet, and all I saw was one Large Yellowleg and one Black Duck. A strong west wind prevailed, and clear weather. This is the *poorest* year for birds that I have known on Nantucket (some twenty years).

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

[1] Golden Plover.

Nantucket, September 18, 1893

Weather clear, with strong west wind. I drove out over the western ground during the forenoon, back at noon. Saw four Black-bellied Plover and shot one, and two larger and one small Yellowlegs. Shot the two former. Also saw one Black Duck and two Bartramian Sandpipers. The latter are the same as I have seen before. Saw no Golden Plover and have not heard of any. Weather looks like rain late this P.M. Wind died out.

G. H. M.

1 Black-bellied Plover (½ black, ½ white on breast)
2 Larger Yellowlegs

Nantucket, September 19, 1893

Rainy today, wind S. by W. and S.W. I drove out in the P.M. over a portion of the western ground, but saw nothing. It cleared off finely with wind west about six and a half o'clock P.M.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 20, 1893

I drove out after breakfast over the western ground as far as Gideon's Valley. I saw the five Black-bellied Plover in the same place as I did on the 18th. I shot one of them. The day has been clear and pleasant but hazy, a sort of smoky southwester.

G. H. M.

1 Black-bellied Plover
1 Larger Yellowleg

Nantucket, September 30, 1893

Since the 27th we have had windy, lowering and rainy weather with wind N. and N.E. It was blowing 30 miles an hour this forenoon and the steamboat did not leave. The sky has looked as if it might rain in torrents at times, but only a few drops fell during the day. I drove all over the western ground. All I saw was two Fish Hawks and one Blue Heron.

On the 24th six Pale-bellies (young American Golden Plover) were seen towards the west. They were the first and only *young* birds seen here this month.

G. H. M.

Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Mass.
September 29, 1893

I passed last evening here and had some conversation with Mr. Ray Fisher and another sportsman regarding the Plover flight this season. I learned that only some dozen scattering Plover had been shot, and five Eskimo Curlew. Some Plover were passing, the above men said, on the 23d August. The season was the same as at Nantucket, a great failure. Personally, I do not think I have ever seen so poor a one during the years I have been shooting on Nantucket. While driving over the Plains near Edgartown this morning, I saw one Gray Squirrel and one Fish Hawk. The former jumped from the top of a telegraph pole when a Marsh Hawk flew near him overhead.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., October 3, 1893

I started out after breakfast and took my usual long ride over the western ground. The day was windy and lowering, as it has been the past six days, and the vane has kept as if nailed at North, sometimes veering a trifle one side or the other. Seeing a Winter Yellowleg standing asleep on the shore of the Hummock Pond I walked up within easy range and shot it. This was the only small bird I saw. I noticed six large Blue Herons, and nine and two Black Ducks, and one Fish Hawk. I think I killed the mate the other day, but could not find where it fell. This is my last ride out for this season, as I go to Boston for the winter on the 5th.

1 Winter Yellowleg G. H. M.

Total for the season 29 large birds.

Muskeget Island, Mass., March 11, 1894

We have had unusually warm and moderate weather ever since March 1st, the thermometer rising as high as 65 some days, and I do not remember heretofore so *many* days of such spring-like weather with west and southwesterly winds. S. Chase and myself left Boston on the 9th and reached here yesterday noon, a fine trip down in the boat with light N.E. wind. We saw scarcely any birds on the way. There are however more Eiders living near Chappaquiddic Island, Martha's Vineyard, than last year. The estimated number living about a mile to the north of Chappaquiddic is, say, two thousand. These *large* numbers of Eiders and Scoters live around Cape Poge on Martha's Vineyard, and what may seem strange, considerable numbers of the Eiders go regularly every day into the large pond near Cape Poge on Chappaquiddic Island, Martha's Vineyard. There were a good many Scoters going into this pond daily to feed, and their example was followed by the Eiders. Between the Islands of Tuckernuck and Muskeget there are fewer Eiders living than last winter, I think owing to scarcity of shellfish food, and this condition has prevailed all winter. There were no Brant living in these waters this winter. The first seen this spring was about 15th of February (five or six). In about five or six days after there were about fifty. At this writing there are five hundred estimated Brant here, and the larger half have come during the last four or five days. There has been a strong breeze S.E. all day until about seven o'clock P.M. when, after some fog during the P.M., the wind hauled W., light breeze. Another curious thing regarding the shoal ducks (Eiders) this spring is that there are about five drakes to one duck and this they say is a *sure sign* of few ducks, just as *many* ducks (females) is a sure sign of many ducks. There are less Scaup in this locality this winter than last. At this writing there are about five thousand *A. m. nearctica* living in Maddaket Harbor, Nantucket, Mass. During the spring

of 1893 (the 2d of May) there were a good many Red Phalarope between Tuckernuck and Muskeget. On the 2d of May, 1893, Marcus Dunham saw, for the first time that season, about fifteen Black-breast Plover on Gravelly Island flats, and about May 18 or 20 there were some hundred and fifty living on Tuckernuck, and they remained some week or ten days. Mr. D. thinks about one third of them were *black-breasted*. There were rather less Turnstones in the spring of 1893 than there were in the spring of 1892, and they came with and were here with the Black-breast just the same as in 1893. They are *close* friends. There were about six Sanderlings which have lived here the past winter. Marcus Dunham shot a brown owl? (probably a short-eared) on Muskeget on March 7. We set the Brant coys off Jenkins Point about 2 o'clock P.M. and remained in until about five o'clock without having a bird (Brant) come within a mile of us. We did not fire a shot. I saw a Redwing Blackbird March 9, as I was riding down to Woods Hole in the cars.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, March 12, 1894

We turned out at 3.15 o'clock A.M. The weather was calm and moderate. There was but little air moving, and that N.N.W. After breakfast we went to the Point just south of Adams Island and dug a stand on the inside on the Knuckle, where we remained until ten o'clock A.M. We saw scarcely any fowl, and only about a dozen Eiders came by us or through the western opening, and I only saw a *very few* sitting around. I never saw fewer in my life. I think they have been driven off, and about one hundred killed. They say there are 500 Brant around here. I have not seen them yet. Those I have seen seem to be living some distance to the N.E. of the wreck *Lyndon*. They are *not* where they will make good shooting. The water has been glassy all day, so one could see all around, but thus far I have seen scarcely any fowl. The weather is too moderate. There are some

White Wing Scoters around, and a few Broadbills, *A. m. nearctica*. I also saw some half dozen Golden-eyed Widgeon. I walked over the Island in the P.M.

G. H. M.

4 American Eiders
2 White Wing Scoters

Muskeget Island, March 13, 1894

We were up at 3 o'clock A.M. as heretofore and went to the same place as yesterday. We saw scarcely any fowl, and only had half a dozen shots. The weather was the same as yesterday, glassy during the day. The wind was nominally N.W. At about eleven it was N.E. and in the P.M. it was S.W. and later S. with good breeze. After we returned from trying to shoot Eiders, we saw eleven Broadbill Widgeon feeding in a cove near our house. We drove them out and set the decoys. Ten came back in three lots and we shot down eight of them and saved seven. Two of them, a male and female, were the small ones, *affinis*. It was one of the most beautiful days I ever knew on Muskeget. It has been like May since we arrived, and really quite warm and a clear sky. Marcus Dunham saw about five hundred Brant today. They are feeding about half way across to Tuckernuck.

G. H. M.

2 American Eiders
5 Broadbill, *A. m. nearctica*
2 Broadbill, *A. affinis*

Muskeget Island, March 14, 1894

There was a severe squall at about 2.30 in the morning, with wind southeast and rain, blowing very fresh. During the day the wind came N.W. and has blown very *hard* all day, as it is also doing this evening. We did not go shooting but remained around the house until four o'clock P.M., when G. H. M. went up to the North Pond for Black Ducks. On arrival 16 flew out. Marcus appeared at sundown, and we both remained as long as we could see. Two pairs of ducks

came in but did not alight, so we did not shoot at them. Yesterday we set some hooks for Gulls, but have caught none as yet. We saw about all the Brant today, and there are about five hundred, I should say, perhaps a few less. It has not been very cold today. We were up at 4.15 o'clock A.M., as we hoped to go for Brant, but the tide was too high and no chance, but we have some expectations for tomorrow and hope to get some Brant.

G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, March 15, 1894

We did not get up until 4 o'clock this morning, as we were going to Gravelly Island shoal, and the tide did not make it necessary to start earlier. It was a pretty cold morning with wind northwest and blowing pretty fresh. We gave it up at nine o'clock, as the tide had fallen sufficiently to permit the Brant to feed. We only had seven Brant to the decoys, and I am ashamed to say only killed one. When we gave up shooting the wind had died away so it was calm, glassy. Towards night wind came light S.W. and at seven it commenced to snow with wind west. We saw all the Brant there [were] around here today. They were sitting on the middle ground on the Tuckernuck side. I should estimate the number as about four hundred, not more. I saw about twenty-five Red-breasted Mergansers today. The height of the season for them is the 1st to the 10th of April. Those which do not live here all winter appear about March first and leave before the 10th of May.

G. H. M.

1 Brant
2 American Eiders

Muskeget Island, March 16, 1894

The wind was southeast this morning at 4 o'clock A.M., so after consulting together we concluded not to get up. Later the wind came S.W., so after breakfast Sidney with Marcus

went and set the Brant decoys off Station House Point, and I took a walk over to the North Pond. Sidney remained until 12.30 without getting a shot. I put up nine Black Ducks out of the pond, and sitting down I remained for an hour and a half, but no ducks came in, so I gave it up and returned to the house, where I remained the rest of the day. The wind came west soon after noon and later N.W., very moderate and pleasant. In the early morning it threatened rain. We caught one very fine adult American Herring Gull on the hooks today, and I saved him alive. This has been an off day and I have not a single record to make. At seven-thirty this evening the wind is Northwest, strong breeze.

Muskeget Island, March 17, 1894

We went to Gravelly Island shoal after Brant this morning, with N.W. and West by North wind, fair breeze. It was not cold. We remained on the shoal until about 10 o'clock A.M. without getting a bird. We had a flock of nine come, but as they passed within shot going down wind, S.C. wanted to let them pass and wheel. They *kept on*, so we lost the only shot we had. The Brant all keep up at the eastward where there is no chance of shooting them. It died away glassy calm by 10 o'clock A.M. and so remained the rest of the day, which was beautiful. It has certainly been a most unusual calm and warm March thus far. I never knew anything like it before. The Eiders seem to be about all gone, in fact there have only been a few scattering ones since we arrived, and I never saw so *little* bird life in these waters at this season. At seven o'clock P.M. the wind is very light south. Marcus went up to the North Pond at sundown after Black Ducks, but did not see any. He waited until 9 o'clock P.M. G. H. M.

Muskeget Island, March 18, 1894

We were up at 4 o'clock, with a strong Southeast wind, cloudy. We soon had breakfast and at daylight we [were] in a

stand built on the end of the Northeast Point, which is near the house, and our only hopes were to get a few shots at the White Wing Scoters as they passed by on their way in to feed from the outside. We saved ten of those we shot down, and were back to the house at 7.30 o'clock A.M. We then packed up all our things preparatory to starting for Nantucket, which we did at nine, in the centre-board dory. She was very heavily loaded and as it was pretty rough in places, we took in some water. After a long, cold, and dreary sail of *five hours* we reached our destination. We saw scarcely any fowl on the way up. So ends this trip which, as far as birds are concerned, has been unsuccessful. The weather has been too fine and warm and moderate, so that many of the birds kept out in the Sound. Then again there is a great scarcity of shellfish food in this locality at present, and large quantities (acres) of the eel grass on which the Brant feed have been killed during the past winter. Still there is a good deal left. The Brant have kept to the eastward of the wrecks *Lyndon* and *Sammy Ford* and have not, and *will* not, up to date, go anywhere where there is an opportunity for shooting them. As a result only six have been shot in these waters up to date. There are about four hundred living here. There were about 200 Eiders living here the third week in February, when they commenced to shoot them and used up about half of them before I commenced. Then there did not appear to be over about fifty feeding *inside*, and I never saw any outside. I lean to the opinion that owing to the *unusually* warm weather which prevailed from the first of March to date they have migrated north, for there are but few now to be seen. These Eiders have for the *first* time been feeding this spring in Nantucket Harbor in numbers, a most *unusual* thing for them to do. About one thousand Scoters also have been living in the upper half of the Harbor this winter, going in and out morning and afternoon. There are at this date, where they have been for some little time, living off the mouth of

Polpis Harbor, about one hundred and fifty Brant. I have not heard of any having been shot up to date. On 19th the wind was strong S.E., foggy.

G. H. M.

10 White Wing Scoters, *O. deglandi*

Nantucket, April 29, 1894

I started out at quarter of ten A.M., wind N.E. fresh, and drove from the Miacomet Pond to Further Creek. I saw nothing until reaching the Hummock Pond, where there were about thirty Broadbills, *A. m. nearctica*, and two, apparently a pair, of Black-bellied Plover. One was apparently slate colored on the breast and the other was mostly black. I shot the latter. On the 18th a flock of seven were seen flying towards the west by one of the Maddaket Life Saving Station men, Mr. Dunham. These are the earliest dates I have known with one exception on Cape Cod (last year I think one bird). I saw several pairs of Black Ducks, mated, and one Old Squaw in the Long Pond. On the 30th of April there were some 30 estimated Brant still living around Muskeget Island, and a few Sheldrakes. The season is practically over.

G. H. M.

1 Black-bellied Plover, *C. squatarola*

Notes

Billingsgate Light House
Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Mass.
April 15, 1894

Mr. H. G. Nutter of Boston saw seven flocks of American Eiders, five to seven birds in a flock; April 20 saw three flocks, three to five birds each, off Wellfleet. On April 18, 1894, he saw two flocks of Canada Geese flying N.E. One flock had twelve, the other rather more in it. April 21 saw a flock of eight Canada Geese. They were very tired and settled down

in Wellfleet Harbor to rest. On April 29, Mr. James P. Smith, keeper of Billingsgate Lighthouse, saw two Black-bellied Plover, *C. squatarola*.

G. H. M.

Mr. Vinal Edwards of Woods Hole, Mass., informed me that there were between 4,000 and 5,000 American Eiders living between Naushon Island and Woods Hole during the latter part of the winter of 1894. They all departed on March 13 on a *strong* southwest wind. Some which were shot on February 11 and 15 contained quantities of sculpin spawn and black mussels, the latter ground up fine and black in color. I saw both and examined them. Four specimens, all females, of the King Eider were taken, February 20, 1894, and an examination of their stomachs showed them to contain in every instance *Tritia trivittata*.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, Mass., August 18, 1894

Wind S.W. clear. Aug. 19.— Nearly clear, a very light fog during a portion of the day. Wind S.W., light. Two flocks of 50 and 30 Golden Plover seen at the eastern part of Island. None stopped. Aug. 20.— Looked like a squall early. Barometer falling. Wind S., then N.E., later N.W., later N. Remained clear all day. A few drops of rain at 5 o'clock P.M. The squall passed southeast of the Island. Overcast at six o'clock P.M. The fires to attract Plover going all day yesterday and today at the east and west parts of the Island. No Plover landed. Loring A. Dunham saw two flocks of Plover at the east, of 50 and 30 estimated birds respectively. These are the first birds seen this season. They did not stop. Aug. 21.— Clear; northerly winds, fresh. Drove all over the western Plover ground but saw no birds. There was a *very severe* rain storm in Boston today. Weather quite cool. No Plover. Saw six Large Yellowlegs and one small one, shot the latter. Aug. 22.— Northerly winds, with a little east at times, clear. Aug. 23 and 24.— Westerly wind with

some south in it at times, clear. A few birds, Golden Plover, were heard passing over the town on the night of the 24th. None stopped. I shot five Large Yellowlegs on the 24th; lost one of them. Drove all over the Plover ground but saw no birds. Aug. 25.— Strong S.W. winds first half of the day, moderate; afterwards clear and pleasant. Aug. 26.— Drove out after breakfast. Wind S.W. calm, foggy outside the Island. Saw six Large and four Small Yellowlegs. I also saw *four* Golden Plover, the first I have seen this season. I shot an English Snipe today on the shore of the Hummock Pond. It was feeding with some Peeps. It did not fly as Snipe usually do but acted like a Red-breasted Snipe, which I took it to be until I got it in my hand. I saw a Great Blue Heron today on the shore of the above Pond. At one o'clock P.M. it clouded up and wind changed to light N.East, with a few drops of rain at 3½ o'clock. Wind light.

G. H. M.

1 English Snipe, Wilson's
4 Small Yellowlegs
1 Long-legged Stilt Sandpiper
1 Small Yellowleg
4 Winter Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 27, 1894

I drove over the western ground but saw no Golden Plover. There are about a dozen birds here, as far as I can learn, but only four have been shot thus far. The weather keeps fair and moderate. I shot nothing today but two Large Yellowlegs, neither of which I was able to get. Aug. 28.— Wind N.E., gentle breeze. No birds. Aug. 29.— Wind N.E. to S.E., very light. There were some Plover passed over the town last night, and five were seen today (29th). None stopped, however, on Nantucket. In the P.M. the wind was E. and N.E., light air. Aug. 30.— No Plover. Drove west. Looked like rain in the P.M. Wind S.W. in the P.M. Aug. 31. — Wind S.W. all last night and all day today. Saw eight

bunches of Plover about sunset flying towards the west, estimated numbers seventy-five down to twenty-five in a flock. Hazy, could not see offshore. Sept. 1.— Wind light N. by West. No birds. Sept. 2.— Drove out after breakfast over the western ground. Strong S.W. wind. Very hazy, a smoky southwester. Saw no Plover. Returned by 12.30 noon. Up to date only five Golden Plover have been shot. No Eskimo Curlew seen or shot. Two men drove over pretty much all the Plover ground on this Island on Friday and Saturday (Aug. 31 and Sept. 1), but saw no birds (Plover). I hear there are some three hundred Golden Plover on Tuckernuck, and I incline to the belief that they are those birds noted at sunset flying west on Aug. 31, they having possibly stopped there. Shall hear later probably. This is the driest summer ever known here. The ponds were never so low to my knowledge, say, twenty years. Sept. 3.— The wind came north last evening about 8 o'clock P.M. At 3½ o'clock in the morning it was N.E., strong breeze all day. Saw nine Golden Plover and also a flock of fifteen; also about 100 seen by a man located on the Ram Pasture. There were three shot today. Sept. 4.— I drove out after breakfast, light breeze south. Went over the western ground but saw no Plover. Langdon Mackay shot his *first* bird today, three Peeps at one shot, and George H. Mackay, Jr., also shot his first bird today, a single Ring-neck Plover, quite an *event* to us all. Pretty calm in the afternoon and warm. The fires are still going and large tracts have been burned over. Most of it of no use, as far as the birds are concerned. There were seven birds, Golden Plover, shot today. Sept. 5.— The wind was strong West this A.M., with a thick fog outside the Island, becoming more dense in the P.M., covering the Island, with wind S.W. I drove out this A.M. and was on the ground between the Miacomet and Reedy Ponds from 9 A.M. until 12 o'clock. I set my decoys in the Little Mioxe Valley, where I remained two hours. I did not see a Golden Plover, but saw

six Yellowlegs (large ones) in all. Sept. 6.— Drove out after dinner towards west. Saw one flock of nine Golden Plover, from which four were shot today. Last Monday there was one flock of G. Plover on Tuckernuck, from which 18 were killed. This is all the birds that have been there. Weather thick outside, clear over the Island. No birds, only a few scattered ones. Sept. 7.— Drove out west this A.M. Foggy early. Three flocks of Plover seen on Ram Pasture, one of nine, one of seven, one of four. These birds have been here several days. No new ones have come on. Wind light westerly, at times S.W., clear over Island, warm. The fires are still burning here and have covered an immense area, some of which is pine lands. It is of little use to go out shooting. I saw one G. Plover and one large Yellowleg today also. I have not shot anything up to date. We have not had the August storm or September gale. Sept. 8, 1894.— I drove out eastward today, starting about 10 o'clock A.M., with a gentle S. East breeze, and overcast. The fires are still going in all directions, and I never in the twenty years I have been here have seen more burnt area. Just beyond the Foot Ponds on a large burnt area I found a flock of about twenty-five Golden Plover, from which I obtained five. I then drove a mile or more to the southeast, all the while over burnt ground, when I found another flock of about forty G. Plover. They all sat close together on a knoll. Just as I was about to fire at them from the wagon, they flew. It was too bad, as I would have made one of the largest shots that I ever did in my life. I found a bush and set decoys for them. They returned in a little while and alighted some distance off. I sent Geo., Jr., to start them up, which he did beautifully, and as a result before they finally left I obtained ten more. I killed eight of these at one shot. I was back to the house at 2.30 P.M., having enjoyed the morning very much. I lost two G. Plover shot down, which I could not find. These are the *first* G. Plover *I* have shot this season.

G. H. M.

15 Golden Plover

(Written on a slip of paper)

Aug. 28, 1894. Tuesday.—Wind N.E. No birds. Gentle breeze. Wednesday.— Wind N.E. to S.E., very light. A movement at night over town. Saw 5 Green-heads, did not stop on Nantucket, went west. Thursday.— Wind E. and N.E., light air. No birds. Went west. Looks like rain. In P.M. wind S.W. Wind S.W. all last night and all day Friday. Friday.— Saw 8 bunches about sunset going west, flocks 75 to 25 in each. Hazy, could not see offshore. Saturday.— Wind N. by W., light. No birds.

Nantucket, September 9, 1894

I drove out towards the east and covered *all* the burnt ground west of Gibbs Pond, and a pretty large area it is. I found one flock of six Golden Plover, and shot two of them; also a flock of about thirty, from which I failed to get any. They were the same birds seen yesterday, and are about all there are on the Island. The wind was west, good breeze, thick fog outside the Island in the P.M. At dark the wind all died out. The fires are still going. I hear of no other Plover being killed on Nantucket. A few have been shot on Tuckernuck.

G. H. M.

2 Golden Plover

Tuckernuck Island, Sept. 5, 1894. About one hundred Golden Plover landed here last night, as they have not been seen before. No Dough birds (Eskimo Curlew). No Plover seen before Sept. 5. About 20 Plover shot in all to Sept. 10.

Nantucket, September 11, 1894

I drove out eastward to the burnt ground with the boys after breakfast, and was back at the house at 12 noon. The wind was N.W. until quarter of four, when it came N.E., strong breeze in the morning, died down about one o'clock P.M., and remained nearly calm the rest of the day. After

dinner I drove out again over the same ground. There are about one hundred estimated Golden Plover domiciled on the burnt ground east, a good share of which are young birds, most of which I think landed last night in a fog which prevailed early in the evening and late afternoon. All the Plover I shot today were Pale-bellies, the first of the season (young birds) but one. Weather clear today and warm. There is an enormous tract of burnt ground at the east, nearly *half* the Island.

G. H. M.

11 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 12, 1894

I started early this morning, going to the eastern burnt ground, where the only Plover on the Island frequent at times. I saw the same birds as I have seen every day lately, about one hundred, and I should say the greater part of them were young birds or Pale-bellies, and they will not decoy much. A flock of about fifty which I have failed a number of times to drive up to, flew by me today, and I had a long shot at them from the wagon, knocking out seven. It has been a fine clear S.W. day, rather warm, but some breeze. I came home by eleven o'clock. Four or five flocks of Plover were seen passing by the jetty towards the west about six o'clock P.M. A portion of these were seen going west across the Ram Pasture. There have been no Plover seen or shot at the west thus far, except on one day, and a few scattering flocks on others (6).

G. H. M.

8 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 13, 1894

I drove out over the eastern ground and saw the same old birds (Plover). However, I only secured one Pale-belly. A slight rain in the night.

G. H. M.

1 Golden Plover

On the 14th it rained very moderately, without any wind. Nothing stopped. The only Plover here are about one hundred, and they live at the eastward, never going west. Sept. 17.— I did not go out. Wind W. and S.W., rainy in the morning and lowering all day. Sun out and clear at times. No wind or air moving: a hot muggy dog-day.

Nantucket, September 15, 1894

I drove out towards the east late in the P.M. I saw the same old birds (Plover). At sundown flying West over the S'conset Road about the third milestone I saw a flock of about two hundred estimated Golden Plover, which were apparently new birds. Wind S.W. and W.

Nantucket, September 16, 1894

I was up early and drove all over the western ground, looking for the large flock I saw last night, but I could not find them. I then drove over the eastern ground and saw an acquaintance who had been over the southeast quarter of the Island. He had only seen one small flock of eighteen. *I* saw one of the old flocks of about eighteen or twenty. Neither of us had a shot today. The birds undoubtedly went on and did not stop. Of two other men who were out, I heard one shot two and the other eighteen Plover. I have not verified it.

Nantucket, November 6, 1894

A very severe storm raged throughout New England last night, the wind reaching a velocity of one hundred miles an hour at times, accompanied with snow and hail and rain, with wind N.E. It moderated and ceased raining about eight o'clock A.M., with wind N.N.W., strong breeze and cold, the sun showing occasionally. At 10.30 A.M. Mr. Chas. E. Snow and I started out. We drove to the Hummock Pond, where we found about one hundred Black Ducks. We dug a stand where they were, and set our decoys and remained

until about 3.30 o'clock P.M. I saw in all today about one hundred and fifty Black Ducks, seven Broadbills, *A. m. nearctica*, about thirty White Wing Scoters, two Red-breasted Mergansers, two Shore Larks, and twenty-five Snow Buntings. There were twenty-five Broadbills in the Long Pond middle of last week, and they are still there now. I also saw about thirty Sanderlings and Peeps. I think I also saw two Golden Plovers, Pale-bellies. We only had a very few ducks come to the decoys, from which we managed to save eight. Two of these were Mallard Ducks. They were with the Black Ducks. I knew them at once long before we shot them, from their lighter color. They kept a little away from the Black Ducks and acted as if they were ill at ease with them. On my way to Nantucket yesterday, and at a point about half a mile to the eastward of the Tuckernuck shoal Bell Buoy, I saw about twenty-five hundred Old Squaws, as also quite a number of White Wing Scoters. It is blowing very hard this evening, wind N.W.

G. H. M.

1 Black Duck
2 Mallard Ducks
2 Red-breasted Mergansers
1 Surf Scoter
2 White Wing Scoters

8

Nantucket, November 7, 1894

Charley Snow and I started off at 7.30 o'clock A.M. We drove to the same place we were at yesterday, and I set my decoys. Snow drove around to the other side of the Hummock Pond, where he set out. We remained until three o'clock, with but poor results. The wind was strong N.W. and pretty cold. Ice made last night in places. We saw but few ducks. I saw about one hundred Snow Buntings, seven Geese, about forty White Wing Scoters, and six Broadbills, *A. m. nearctica*, and twenty Black Ducks. I shot an Old

Squaw *dead*, which drifted to the opposite shore some distance from where my stand was. I noticed some crows in the locality. When I tried to find the Old Squaw it was nowhere to be seen. The crows must have carried it off bodily.

1 American Scoter
4 White Wing Scoters
1 Herring Gull, young
1 Old Squaw
1 Crow

8

G. H. M.

Nantucket, November 8, 1894

While passing through Nantucket Sound today on my way to Boston I saw a flock of Eiders, *S. dresseri*, containing seven ducks and two drakes. I also saw a single duck Eider. I saw the large collection of Old Squaws noted on the 5th of November at the same place. I also saw a large number of Scoters, mostly White Wings, in detached groups all through the Sound.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 26, 1895

The 24th was thick outside the Island, with the wind fresh S. West. Mr. Warren Ramsdale, who lives at Maddaket, informed me that he saw five Golden Plovers today flying towards the west. These are the *first* record of the season. The prevailing winds here since the 19th, taken from the Government record station, were Aug. 13, N.W.; 14:E.; 15: S.W.; 16: S.E.; 17 and 18: S.W.; Aug. 19: North; Aug. 20: N.E. and N.W.; Aug. 21: N.W.; Aug. 22: N.E. to N.W.; Aug. 24: West. Two lone Golden Plovers were reported as being seen at the east end of the Island. No others have been certainly identified since and up to the 29th. On the 29th Mr. Sidney Chase and I with Mr. Charles E. Snow and three men and a horse and scoop commenced to dig a trench from the Hum-

mock Pond to the sea, in order to let out the water. We commenced a little before ten o'clock. The wind was very light S.W. with little surf on the beach. The Pond was very full, owing to the large quantity of rain this summer. We had it running about two o'clock P.M. It was high tide outside on the beach at 1 o'clock P.M. We remained around until five five o'clock P.M., at which time a stream of about four feet (shallow) was running. We visited it the next morning and found the width increased to ten feet, with a good volume of water flowing out, and we now felt it would go all right and not close up, although the wind remained S.W. and moderate. On the way out Mr. Chase shot a Hudsonian Curlew which we whistled up within gunshot of our wagon. On the morning of the 31st we started out at six A.M. with the intention of setting our decoys at the Pond and remaining all day, which we did. The opening was now very *wide* and deep (60 or 70 feet) and a large portion of the water was drained off. When the high tide came it flowed *into* the Pond in considerable volume, enough to raise the level at the south head along the beach as much as two feet to three. We remained in our sand stand until after four o'clock P.M. We only saw eleven Yellowlegs (Lesser) in all, and G. H. M. shot six of them, which was everything we shot during the entire day. Soon after starting this morning we had a very hard rain which lasted for about two hours. It was *very* foggy outside as well as on the Island during the greater portion of the day. The wind was light S.W.

G. H. M.

1 Jack Curlew (Hudsonian)
6 Lesser Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 31, 1895

S. Chase and I started out for the Ram Pasture at nine o'clock A.M., with S.E. wind. We remained around near the S.W. shore of Hummock Pond until about four o'clock P.M. I saw and fired at the first Golden Plover *I* have seen this

season, but did not secure it. It was a lone bird. On Sept. 1, Chase shot the first Golden Plover of the season from a flock of four. We saw a few Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers, a few of which we shot. There have been three Solitary Sandpipers shot here within the past week.[1] They used to be quite plenty here, a good many years ago, but are now *very* rare. I remember shooting but one during the past fifteen years, and only seeing two or three. The Hummock Pond is still open.

G. H. M.

1 Long-legged Sandpiper, Stilt
2 Lesser Yellowlegs
5 Pectoral Sandpipers
—
8

Nantucket, September 3, 1895

I took Langdon and George out with me this P.M. We drove to the Hummock Pond, Ram Pasture side. After the boys had shot a lot of Peeps, we drove down the west side of the Pond. On the way I shot a Hudsonian Curlew. The wind was S.W., and very clear and warm.

G. H. M.

1 Hudsonian Curlew
4 Pectoral Sandpipers
40 Peeps
—
45

Notes.— On Aug. 25, the prevailing wind was N.E. On the 26th east. On 27th N.W. On 28th N.W. On 29th N.W. On Sept. 1 Nelson Dunham shot at the Reedy Pond four Golden Plover, three of which were *Pale bellies* (young), the other an old bird. He saw 20 birds in all. On Sept. 9, Chas. E. Snow saw 40 Golden Plover at west end of the Island in one flock. This flock has been seen at the east end also and is probably the only flock of these birds here. Only one Golden

[1] Chas. E. Snow shot another on Aug. 29 which I purchased and had preserved. Another on Sept. 9 and three on Sept. 10, 1895, all at Hummock Pond. G. H. M.

Plover up to 15th of Sept., 1895, has been shot on Tuckernuck Island. No Eskimo Curlew seen anywhere this season.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 18, 1895

S. Chase, my two boys and I drove out to the Hummock Pond. It was rainy and thick outside the Island. Today Langdon shot his *first* large bird, a Winter Yellowleg, but as it fell in the Pond, we lost it, much to my regret. We saw no Golden Plover.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 19, 1895

S. Chase and I started out at six o'clock A.M., driving first to the Ram Pasture, then crossing over to the west side of the Hummock Pond over the beach to Gideon's Valley, Reedy Pond, Miacomet, surf side to Kimball's farm, where we saw seven Golden Plover which had been living there for some little time. We then drove to Gibbs Pond, and then home. We saw about seventy-five Black Ducks in the Hummock Pond. We also saw three Golden Plover at the Reedy, which had previously passed us, coming from the west. These we shot, one of which was a *young* bird. This comprised everything we saw except two or three Pectoral Sandpipers and some Peeps. I heard a bunch of birds came up from Tuckernuck today containing about twenty (?) Golden Plover. The weather was thick outside the Island last night, the same as it was the night before. The wind was S.W. early and then backed up to N.E., light breeze, overcast. It cleared off about eleven o'clock A.M. At six P.M. the wind is *very* light East and clear.

G. H. M.

3 Golden Plover

Nantucket, September 21, 1895

Wind S.W., clear, hazy outside the Island. Drove all over the western ground. The only birds seen were one young and one black-breasted Golden Plover.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 31, 1896

Mr. Sidney Chase and I drove out after dinner and went all over the western ground. We did not see any birds. The wind was S. West, gentle breeze. We reached home at six o'clock P.M. We noticed rain clouds were gathering in the N.W. and at about seven o'clock it commenced to rain and wind changed to N.W. and North. On going down town I was informed that a flock of Plover (?) had been seen flying in towards the north shore of Nantucket, and I was soon afterward informed of several other flocks being heard. Although the rain was not heavy until late in the evening and was accompanied by little wind, yet very large numbers of birds and many flocks were *continually* heard calling up to one P.M. midnight, and I have never except two or three times in my experience heard so many birds passing over the town. They seemed somewhat bewildered when they saw the glare of the electric lights stationed at the top of tall poles at a number of places in the town, and many flocks apparently circled around them a number of times before departing. Although no birds were *seen*, many call notes were recognized, prominent among which and more abundant than any of the others seemed to be the Winter Yellowleg, and also some of the Lesser Yellowleg, American Golden Plovers, Hudsonian Curlew (notes heard only twice), Peeps, Blackbelly Plover, Terns. Several sportsmen told me they recognized the note of several flocks of the Eskimo Curlew also. I did not hear any myself. At times there was a perfect babel of bird voices as they circled quite low down over the high electric lights, and the passage of birds was apparently *continuous* from half past seven P.M. until 12.30 P.M., which was my latest report. I did not retire until 11.30 P.M. When I got up, at three o'clock A.M. the following morning, to go shooting, it had cleared away and the stars were shining. The wind was still about North, and N. by W., and very light. I was over the western ground soon after light on Sept. 1st,

but no birds were visible, either on the ground or in the air. I remained until eight o'clock A.M. at the west and then drove east, where I remained until 1.30, then coming home. I saw a dozen or more men, gunners. It was the same story, not a bird (except 4 large Yellowlegs) had been shot, and not a Golden Plover or Eskimo Curlew seen; all of the host of the previous night had *passed on*. This is the first migratory movement this season of birds going south on Nantucket. The day has been cool, sunny, and pleasant throughout, with wind to the North and N. by West, becoming strong after nine o'clock P.M. Some birds were heard as they passed over the town on the night of Sept. 3, 1896.

2 Winter Yellowlegs

Nantucket, August 17, 1897

I drove out after breakfast (9 o'clock) to Eel Point with Chas. E. Snow. The wind was strong S.West and clear. We set decoys at the west end of the meadow. I remained until four o'clock P.M. It was pretty warm notwithstanding the breeze, without which we could not have lived, for the mosquitoes which bit me badly. I was also very much sunburnt. I saw in all two Black-breasted Plover (wounded one of them), five Turnstones, three Pectoral Sandpipers (shot one), five Hudsonian Curlew (shot two and wounded a third which I did not get). Saw also a few Peeps and Ringnecks.

2 Hudsonian Curlew
1 Pectoral Sandpiper

G. H. M.

P.S. I saw a good many Black Ducks today.

Nantucket, August 22, 1897

Mr. S. Chase and I started out a little before nine A.M. The wind was S.W. and it looked like rain. We drove from the Miacomet Pond to the Hummock Pond without seeing anything. It commenced to rain in about half to three

quarters of an hour after we started, with lightning at times. The wind kept hauling until it came N.E. We returned home about noon. No plover or other birds landed that we heard of. In the evening two or three persons said they heard birds passing over the town. I did not hear of any, and I was on the watch.

G. H. M.

P.S. At 10.30 night and later a good many birds, supposedly Golden Plover, were heard passing over this Island at several points. At Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass., Aug. 22, the first Golden Plover of the season (four) were shot. A good many were noted passing during the day. This was the first movement going south that has been noted here.

Nantucket, August 23, 1897

Chas. E. Snow and I started out at 8.30 A.M. We rode to the Ram Pasture and over the plains to Sheep Pond, seeing eight or ten Black Ducks and *four Golden Plover* flying pretty well up in a westerly direction. These are the *first* of the *season*. Another gunner, that I afterwards met, said he had seen two Golden Plover. He had one Red-breast (with a fairly red breast) and a Dowitch (Red-breasted Snipe). We also drove east as far as the Miacomet Plain, but only saw one Black Duck. We returned home at 1 o'clock. It looks as if an easterly storm was coming. It is thick outside the Island and a little drizzle at times with a very light air from the east. I did not take my gun out of its case today. No Plover landed, I think.

G. H. M.

P.S. Yesterday afternoon a flock of about 30 Golden Plover were seen at the western side of this Island. Another of 25, and one of 15, and one of 30 seen today at western side of Island. Six were noted on Tuckernuck. Written by R. B. Hussey.

Nantucket, August 24, 1897

I did not go out today, as it commenced to rain about six o'clock A.M. and continued with occasional lulls up to noon, when the wind changed from east where it had been to S.W., and it cleared off. About 40 Golden Plover were seen at western side of the Island, and one small flock of 8 Eskimo Curlew up in the air fairly well, flying to the westward. Although I have seen a number of gunners today, none have shot any Plover or Eskimo Curlew, and only one or two of them have seen anything. In the evening it clouded up again and is calm and looks like more rain. I heard there was considerable shooting on Tuckernuck yesterday afternoon. The birds heard on Sunday evening and those seen since constitute the *first* movement going south for this season. None of the birds stopped. The ground is poorer than usual owing to the wet season, which has made vegetation rather rank on the Plover grounds. Neither has there been any ground *burnt* for them up to date this season. No birds have been shot in this vicinity except the two (?) mentioned.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 29, 1897

Mr. S. Chase and I drove out towards the west about 9 A.M. The wind was S.E. early and backed around into the N.E., gentle breeze. We saw one flock of Winter Yellowlegs containing about 20, and another with about a dozen. We also saw one Hudsonian Curlew which we shot and lost, and we also shot and lost one Bartramian Sandpiper and one Yellowleg, besides those enumerated below. There seems to be a fog bank in the southeast. It rained yesterday P.M. about five o'clock, but no Plover landed. A small flock of about a dozen were noted on the afternoon of the 27th Aug. I saw none today, nor have I heard of any being shot. It was calm during the larger part of the day. We only drove as far as the Sheep Pond. It was clear over the Island, and sun out and quite warm.

G. H. M.

5 Winter Yellowlegs
1 Summer Yellowleg
1 Bartramian Sandpiper

7

Notes

Nantucket, Aug. 24, 1897. Three flocks of Golden Plover seen, one of 25, one of 40, and one of 15, all estimated.

Chatham, Cape Cod, Aug. 22, 1897. First Golden Plover of the season shot, four birds. A good many passed during the day.

Nantucket, Aug. 29, 1897. 11 Golden Plover noted in the Kimball farm.

Nantucket, Sept. 17, 1897. Five Golden Plover seen at west end of the Island. No Eskimo Curlew seen this season except the eight on 24th August. None in the Boston markets this season, nor any Golden Plover.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, August 23, 1904

Mr. Chas. E. Snow saw four Golden Plover together today on the plains west of the Hummock Pond. They were flying. These are the only birds I have heard of before this date and up to Sept. 4, 1904. No flight or birds passing over the town have been noted this season.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, September 16, 1921

My son, R. Langdon Mackay, shot an American Golden Plover (pale-belly) from a flock of Black-breasted Plover. It was the smallest bird I ever saw.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, October 7, 1921

With the exception of one day many years ago, when I shot 16 Yellowlegs and Black-breast Plover at the Big Mioxes,

using seventeen shells, one of which was used in shooting over a wounded one, I have not shot a gun for 24 years. So today I thought I would try it again with my son George, Jr. We went up to Second Point, Cotui, after breakfast, the tide being low. We saw in all eight Black-breast Plover, young birds, and I shot four. On picking them up *one* proved to be a young Golden Plover (pale-belly). If I could have a little practice I feel I could come back to my old shooting form fairly well. My son Langdon, on Sept. 16, 1921, shot a Golden Plover from a flock of Black-belly Plover. This bird was also taken on Cotui.

G. H. M.

3 Black-bellied Plover
1 American Golden Plover (Pale-belly)
1 Long-bill, Grayback (Red-backed Sandpiper)

Nantucket, October 10, 1921

Bunt and I got up at quarter of five A.M., had breakfast, and then went down to the wharf and started for Coskatee in Bunt's power boat. It was moderate easterly, but soon began to breeze up, and by the time we reached Coskatee it was blowing quite hard. We saw some thirty Black Ducks in all in the Pond. We walked over quite an area of the Glades, saw one flock of about twenty Red-back Sandpipers, and put up about a dozen Wilson's Snipe. The latter were wild, owing to the very high wind. After this we returned to the Pond and went into a stand on the Point. About a dozen Black Ducks in all returned to the Pond and alighted in the middle. No chance to get a shot at them, so we pulled up and started for home. Found quite a sea running, and as we were on the lee shore, it was rough and wet getting off to the power boat in the small boat or skiff. We had a *very wet* time getting down, and when opposite Second Point we had to go ashore to a wharf to take the water out of the skiff which we were towing. After that we concluded to go across to Second Point and see if there were any Black-breasted Plover. We found a

bunch of about fifteen, and so we set out and picked up a few of them. We had another wet time getting off to the larger boat and also getting back to town (about 4 o'clock P.M.). On the way we ran aground and Bunt had to go overboard. He had long rubber boots. In a little while we were off again. Still blowing hard from the south with some west of south at times. In all we shot:

6 Black-breasted Plover (young birds)
1 Wilson's Snipe
3 Red-back Sandpipers
1 White Wing Scoter, a fine old drake
—
11

G. H. M.

Nantucket, October 14, 1921

Bunt and I went up to Coskatee Pond after breakfast at seven and a half A.M. Owing to the tide, everything up harbor is arranged to conform to the *tides*. It took us just one hour, as it was very moderate. On the way up we had several shots at White Wing Scoters, saw about one hundred in all. On the 10th inst., we saw twice that number, they were mostly all *old* birds. We built up the stand on the point in the Pond and set our four Black Duck decoys. Only about a dozen or fifteen Black Ducks came in, and those did not decoy, so after a couple of hours G. H. M. took a long tramp over the Glades, where he only put up two Wilson's Snipe. Bunt wing-tipped a young Black Duck which he caught and brought home alive. He also called up two Black-breasted Plover (young) and got them both at a long fine shot. The wind breezed up about noon, and as little inducement to stay remained, we pulled up stakes and came home. It was a little wet, and I was only too glad to put on the oilers. I was more tired than usual, and my loins and back were quite lame after my long tramp over the glades carrying my gun,

and slopping around in the water and mud. The weather was fine and clear, quite warm, with strong west wind. We reached home about four o'clock P.M.

G. H. M.

3 Black-breasted Plover (young)
1 Pectoral Sandpiper (saw about 20 in all)
3 American White-wing Scoters
1 Black Duck

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8

Nantucket, October 17, 1921

It was blowing *very hard* N.E. this morning, and as Bunt wanted to do some work on his shooting shack at Miacomet Pond, I went along and made a stand about a couple of hundred yards away and put out three Black Duck decoys, where I remained until 12 o'clock noon, without seeing a duck. When we arrived five flew over the Pond but did not alight. We both came home to dinner. While I was at the shack, a pair of Pied-billed Grebes swam up to the decoys and went into a cattail swamp near by. I did not disturb them. It has been a common remark among the sportsmen here, about the unusual abundance of Wilson's Snipe this year; some saying they had never seen so many in any year before. There are two more pairs of Pied-bill Grebes living farther up the Miacomet Pond among the cattails.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, October 18, 1921

Mr. Hill of S'conset informed me that he saw three American Golden Plover, young birds (pale-bellies), in a flock of young Black-bellied Plover (chuckleheads) at Maddaket, the western part of the island.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, October 20, 1921

Bunt and I went out in the car at 9.30 A.M. We set out for Black Ducks at the Miacomet Pond near his shack. Only six

ducks came into the Pond, high up, and G. H. M., senior, fired at them without effect. We picked up at quarter of one P.M. I saw one Virginia Rail today, one Pied-bill Grebe, one Wilson's Snipe. Bunt did not get a shot. Law off Pheasants today, and every one out after them.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, October 21, 1921

Mr. (Dewey) Irving Sandbury shot two Ruddy Ducks at the Miacomet Pond this afternoon, all there were. I saw and identified them.

G. H. M.

Nantucket, October 22, 1921

My son, R. L. Mackay, shot a female (by dissection) Pied-bill Grebe today at the Long Pond. The gizzard was much distended, being very full of partially digested greenish ground-up pulp. Do not know what it was, but evidently entirely vegetable matter.

G. H. M.

1 Pied-bill Grebe

Nantucket, August 16, 1922

Bunt, Ruth, young Thebaue and I went up to Second Point, Cotui, after Black-bellied Plover, the open season beginning today. We only saw eight or ten birds in all, of which Bunt shot two from three which came. Young Thebaue and I each shot a Craddock. At noon we picked up and went up to the house on Third Point, where we had dinner, Bunt having dug a bucket of clams. As usual we had a strong S.W. breeze to return with. The day was fine but very hot.

G. H. M.

2 Black-bellied Plover
3 Turnstones

The end